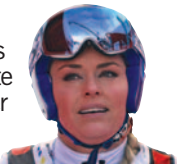


## SKIING

Vonn crashes in penultimate race of career

Back page



## MILITARY

Lawmakers demand answers in wake of Navy linguist's death

Page 4



## AIR FORCE

Service does away with promotion test for senior NCOs

Page 2



Report: ISIS in Syria could resurge quickly after US withdrawal » Page 6

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 77, No. 209 ©SS 2019

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## DOD studies gap in civilian death reports from US strikes

By MISSY RYAN  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has launched a major examination of civilian deaths in military operations, responding to criticism it has failed to protect innocent bystanders in counterterrorism wars worldwide.

The far-reaching initiative to create the military's first-ever policy on civilian casualties, which senior Pentagon officials began last year, seeks to answer a central question: Why is the military's estimate of civilian deaths so much smaller than outside tallies?

Last week, the Pentagon reported 1,190 civilians had been killed by American strikes in Iraq and Syria since the beginning of the campaign against Islamic State in 2014. Airwars, a respected monitoring group, put the figure at a minimum of 7,438 dead, more than six times higher.

The effort is underway as the Pentagon races to conclude its campaign against the militant group, unleashing a torrent of air-strikes ahead of President Donald Trump's ordered withdrawal from Syria. While officials have described the strikes against ISIS as the most precise in history, a high civilian death toll has fueled questions about whether the president's bare-knuckled approach has resulted in greater loss of life.

During the past year, officials from across the military have reviewed the way the Pentagon plans and conducts airstrikes, its procedures for handling allegations of civilian deaths and decisions about when to acknowledge errant strikes. The assessment, which includes a classified study commissioned by Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, comes as lawmakers press the military to improve its handling of noncombatant deaths.

SEE STUDY ON PAGE 5



Europe projects might suffer if Trump uses DOD funds to build border wall

By ERICA WERNER and KAROUN DEMIRJIAN  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congress is bracing for President Donald Trump to target the nation's military construction budget to build his U.S.-Mexico border wall, including money aimed at bolstering European defenses overseas against Russian aggression.

That money would become available to Trump if he declares a national emergency to circumvent a gridlocked Congress and uses the military to build his wall. An emergency declaration, which the president has hinted at repeatedly in recent days, would give him authority to tap some \$20 billion from a wide array of military construction projects approved by Congress but not yet underway.

SEE EUROPE  
ON PAGE 7

Soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard's 194th Engineer Brigade work on the foundation for a forward arming and refueling point at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, last May. Such projects, which fall under the European Deterrence Initiative, could be halted if President Donald Trump dips into military construction funds.

Andrew McNell/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

MILITARY

# USAF ends promotion tests for senior NCOs

By BRIAN FERGUSON  
Stars and Stripes

Airmen eligible for promotion to master sergeant, senior master sergeant or chief master sergeant will no longer be required to pass tests to earn those ranks.

Promotion to the highest three Air Force enlisted ranks will now only include a promotion board score that looks at the last five years worth of evaluations and

takes all awards and decorations under consideration, according to an Air Force statement released Monday. The changes are scheduled to take effect this September.

"We found that removing the testing portion will eliminate any possibility that Airmen without the strongest leadership potential might test into promotion, while also ensuring that our strongest performers continue to earn the

promotion they deserve," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said in a statement.

Every year, airmen spend hundreds of hours studying promotion material. Some questions include military history and other facts that, if ever necessary to learn, could be found through internet searches.

"As an added benefit, we will give SNCOs more control over their time," Wright stated. "This is

time that our enlisted leaders can use to focus on getting after the mission, leading their teams, caring for their families and building self and team resilience."

In the past year or so, the Air Force has seen policy changes come from the Pentagon every few months, and Wright has been the catalyst for many of the changes.

Those changes include the new Operational Camouflage Pattern

uniform, fewer Air Force regulations, reduced training and additional duties and the elimination of enlisted performance reports for airmen first class.

Air Force officials also have discussed re-evaluating indefinite re-enlistments, joint custody assignments, nonchangeable beverage leave and the service's fitness uniform.

ferguson.brian@stripes.com

## New Army Greens to begin phased rollout this year

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army could begin issuing the first batch of its retro-style service uniforms this month in a push to get recruiters onto the streets of "hometown America" in the new duds, the Army's top enlisted soldier said Monday.

The plan is for an initial production of 200 uniforms for recruiters beginning as early as this month, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said in a podcast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

The Army is still fine-tuning how best to pin decorations and awards on the new World War II-style Army Service Uniform, Dailey said. The present plan is to wear the uniform in the same manner as the current ASU, minus the name tag. But that could be streamlined going forward.

"If we look at what they were doing during that period, it was much less than what we wear today ... and I think what you are going to see in the future is a change," he said.

Last year, the Army officially adopted the iconic WWII-period outfit as its new service uniform after about two years of

debating the merits of the plan. Referred to in the past as "pinks and greens," the service today simply calls the uniform Army Greens.

By 2020, the uniform will be issued to new soldiers after they finish basic training. It will be required servicewide by 2028. Dailey, the Army's biggest booster of changing over to the retro look, has made a point of wearing the outfit at high-profile venues such as the Army-Navy Game and AUSA's annual meeting in Washington.

Soldiers will continue to wear their blue dress uniform for formal occasions, but the Greens will offer a more casual alternative that fits into an office setting.

With the U.S. at war for the past 17 years, camouflage has been the uniform of choice for soldiers even when working in offices. But before 2001, it was commonplace to see soldiers wear their service uniforms, which is something Dailey said he would like to see the Army get back to with the new Greens.

"I do want to put our soldiers back in a professional uniform," Dailey said.

In international settings, such as NATO headquarters in Belgium, the site of U.S.



Ron Lee/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey, center, stands with soldier models wearing the new daily service uniform. The service could begin issuing the first batch of its retro-style uniform as early as this month.

soldiers in fatigues and combat boots has been a source of sartorial amusement over the years among their allies wearing office uniforms.

The new uniform, which includes pinkish-brown trousers and dark olive jackets, harkens to the time when Gen. George Marshall was the Army's chief of staff.

The Army's effort to draw on its past also is something of a nod to the Marine Corps, whose Marines have been wearing the same classic dress and service uniforms

for generations.

"(The Marines) didn't get away from that uniform and that period. It's iconic when you see a Marine," Dailey said, adding that Greens, though retired long ago, also hold a place in the popular imagination.

"Even though we get away from (the Army Greens) the American people still clearly identify this uniform with the greatest generation," he said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

## TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup .....	16
Business .....	18
Classified .....	19, 23
Comics .....	22
Crossword .....	22
Faces .....	17
Opinion .....	20
Sports .....	25-32
Weather .....	18

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,  
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

### ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

### ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

### ADVERTISING

ICHIRO  
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

**BEST IN PACAF**  
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Conference Room  
Meeting Room  
24-hour DRY & Laundry Service  
Business Center  
Fitness Room



## TURUMI LODGE

OSAN AIR BASE, KOREA

Do you have friends & family visiting soon? Or do you just need a time out? Make reservations at the most comfortable and affordable place in town. Room rate from \$60.00 to \$63.00 per night.

Space Available reservations can be made for up to 120 day in advance.

Turumi Lodge operation 24 hours, 7days a week.

DSN: 315-784-1844 Comm: 82-31-661-1844

E-mail: turumilodge.reservat@us.af.mil

**www.dodlodging.net www.51fss.com**



## MILITARY

# S. Korea, US agree 'in principle' on cost-sharing

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea have agreed "in principle" on a military cost-sharing deal, the State Department said Tuesday, in a move that would settle a key dispute between the longtime allies amid sensitive nuclear talks with North Korea.

The announcement comes more than a month after the previous pact, known as the Special Measures Agreement, expired. The two sides sparred over Washington's demand that Seoul pay "significantly more" for the daily maintenance of some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers, their dependents and other Americans supporting the mission.

"The United States and the Republic of Korea have reached an agreement in principle on a new Special Measures Agreement," the State Department said. "Both sides are committed to working out remaining technical issues as quickly as possible."

The statement added that the U.S. "appreciates the considerable resources" that South Korea provides to support the alliance, which was forged when the two countries fought together against the com-

**'Both sides are committed to working out remaining technical issues as quickly as possible.'**

U.S. Department of State

munist-backed North in the 1950-53 war.

The State Department didn't provide details. The Trump administration has not publicly stated its new price tag, but officials from both countries have been quoted as saying that Washington wanted Seoul to more than double its annual payment of about \$850 million per year.

Diplomats were eager to resolve the issue amid a new push to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are widely expected to hold a second summit in coming weeks to try to break an impasse on how to implement their earlier agreement on denuclearization.

Stephen Hiegun, the U.S. special envoy for North Korea, planned to meet with his North Korean counterpart in Pyongyang on Wednesday to prepare for the meeting.

Brinkmanship is common in the burden-sharing talks, but the issue was more complicated this year because of Trump's

complaints that U.S. allies need to pay more for their own defense.

Negotiations led by senior diplomats failed to reach consensus after 10 rounds of talks last year.

CNN quoted an unnamed State Department official as saying Monday that South Korea had agreed to boost its contribution to nearly \$1 billion according to the revised pact.

Washington lowered its demand but insisted the contract would be reduced to one year instead of the usual five, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported, citing an anonymous diplomatic source in Seoul.

The standoff raised fears that Trump may use the disagreement as an excuse to follow through on previous threats to reduce troop numbers on the divided peninsula.

Trump said in an interview with CBS on Sunday that he has "never even discussed

removing them," although he reiterated his complaint that they're very expensive and said, "maybe someday."

South Korea insists it pays a fair share of the some \$2 billion per year needed to keep the troops in the country. U.S. Forces Korea, the main command, said in its Strategic Digest that South Korea paid about 41 percent of the cost. That sum mainly goes to pay salaries for South Koreans employed by the military and other logistical support.

The South also paid the bulk of the more than \$11 billion price tag for expanding Camp Humphreys as part of a long-delayed plan to relocate most Americans south of Seoul.

Services have not yet been interrupted thanks to reserve funds, but USFK had warned the Korean Employees' Union that it would have to put local staff on unpaid leave beginning in mid-April if a deal wasn't reached.

American officials also insisted the matter had not affected operations or defense issues. "The U.S. commitment to the security of [South Korea] and its people remains ironclad," a U.S. Embassy official said Tuesday.

gamel.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kimgame1

## New USFJ commander takes reins, emphasizes readiness and training

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider emphasized the importance of maintaining readiness in the face of "increasingly difficult security challenges" as he took command of U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force on Tuesday in western Tokyo.

Schneider became the senior U.S. military leader in Japan after receiving the colors during an indoor ceremony at Yokota's Enlisted Club presided over by Indo-Pacific Command leader Adm. Philip Davidson and Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. U.S. Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty, New Zealand Ambassador to Japan Stephen Peyton, and senior military leaders from both the United States and Japan were also in attendance.

Schneider replaces Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez, who is retiring from the Air Force after a 33-year career capped by more than two

years at the helm of USFJ — a turbulent period that saw an increasingly aggressive China and heightened tensions with North Korea.

During 2017 alone, Pyongyang test-fired several ballistic missiles into the sea between Korea and Japan. It also launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles — which Pyongyang claims can reach the U.S. mainland — over northern Japan. The first, fired on July 4, landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone. The second, launched July 28, was reportedly seen by people in Japan as it landed in waters near Hokkaido, the country's northernmost island.

Schneider — whom both Brown and Martinez referred to by his call sign, "Gumbly" — is no stranger to the Indo-Pacific or USFJ. He comes to USFJ off a nine-month assignment as Davidson's chief of staff at Indo-Pacific Command and once served as an F-16 fighter pilot at Misawa Air Base.

"Japan holds a special place in my memory and in my heart,"

he said, adding that some of his earliest memories are from living in the country when his father served as an officer at Yokosuka Naval Base.

Schneider touted the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance, which he called "the cornerstone of stability and security in the Indo-Pacific." He also highlighted the importance of bilateral training, something very familiar to many of the approximately 54,000 U.S. troops serving in the country.

Tuesday's change-of-command ceremony happened as hundreds of Okinawa-based U.S. Marines ramped up Forest Light drills with Japanese forces in Shiga prefecture. The nearly two-week exercise was slated to include cold-weather, urban-warfare, airborne and sniper training.

"Because of the clear threats to peace and security in this region, we must maintain the highest levels of readiness to respond at a moment's notice to any threat, to any crisis, to any humanitarian disaster," Schneider said.



THORON GOBOLA/Stars and Stripes

**Lt. Gen. Jerry P. Martinez, left, outgoing commander of U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force, shakes hands with his successor, Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider, during a change-of-command ceremony held at Yokota Air Base on Tuesday.**

Martinez also emphasized the need for readiness during a question-and-answer session with reporters last month at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

"Our adversaries train at high levels," he said. "If we don't train at the level that they train, our forces won't be capable."

Martinez didn't call out those adversaries by name but outlined recent developments in the region involving China, North Korea and

Russia. He also highlighted efforts by members of the Okinawa-based III Marine Expeditionary Force to help Japan build its amphibious brigade and how the U.S. has brought its latest equipment — such as F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters, C-130J Super Hercules cargo planes, CV-22 Ospreys and the USS Wasp amphibious-assault ship — to the country.

news@stripes.com

## USAREUR policy extends registration length for older vehicles

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The long waits at Army posts in Germany could become a little less agonizing when the time comes for troops and civilians to register their cars.

A new U.S. Army Europe policy means that owners of vehicles more than 10 years old can now register their cars every two years instead of annually. It's a small change that could eventually mean less

foot traffic — and fewer headaches — at the Army's notoriously congested vehicle registration offices.

"We updated the regulation to become more compliant with the German traffic laws," said Shawn Driscoll, USAREUR's deputy registrar, in an Army statement. "This affects all members of the U.S. military, civilians and family members assigned to Germany."

The change went into effect Jan. 11.

For many servicemembers and civilians,

visits to the local vehicle registration and inspection offices have long been a source of dread, especially for those with older vehicles who have been forced to make the visit annually.

In Stuttgart, the situation was so dire last summer that during the height of Permanent Change of Station season, some community members camped out overnight with lawn chairs and tents to get a front spot in line.

At the time, garrison officials in Stuttgart said the problem was the result of a

higher-than-normal influx of newcomers, which overwhelmed the appointment system and left many people turning to walk-in service. The situation was compounded by a higher-than-normal number of newcomers the previous year who were returning to renew their registrations, officials said.

The garrison was forced to task military police officers to help process vehicle registrations at the time.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver



## MILITARY

## Navy waiver policy draws scrutiny

## Lawmakers demand DOD explain rules after sailor's death in Syria

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of key congressional members are demanding top military officials explain how they will update a series of waiver rules and a failed waiver process that led to the deployment of a Navy linguist killed in Syria.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, 35, a mother of two, was killed last month by a suicide bomber at a restaurant in the Syrian city of Manbij. She was on her fifth combat tour.

Last fall, Kent was to attend a clinical psychology doctoral program in lieu of the deployment. But the Navy reversed the move because she previously had cancer and rejected her waiver applications; instead, she received orders to deploy to Syria. She was killed less than two months later.

"It is difficult to understand why the department would require a long, drawn-out waiver process when she was cancer-free and in remission," the lawmakers who represent Kent's home states of New York and Maryland said in a letter to Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan and Navy Secretary Richard Spencer. "CPO Kent was fit to deploy to a war zone, we believe she was fit to serve her country as a clinical psychologist."

The letter, dated Friday, was signed by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., Sens. Ben Cardin, D-Md., Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., and Sen. Tim Wainwright, D-N.Y., and House Reps. Walter Jones, R-N.C., Anthony Brown, D-Md., and Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md.

Kent, along with 18 others, including another U.S. servicemember, a Defense Intelligence Agency civilian and a Defense Department contractor, were killed Jan. 16 in Syria. Kent was the first female U.S. servicemember killed in Syria since the U.S.-led coalition's campaign against Islamic State began there in late 2014.

A private memorial service for Kent is planned for Friday.

## Lawmakers lobbied

The Pine Plains, N.Y., native enlisted in the military in December 2003 shortly after high school, fueled by the 9/11 attacks and her service-oriented family. She spoke several languages, including four dialects of Arabic.

Last year, Kent was slated to attend the Navy's psychology doctorate program at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. After the

Navy blocked the move, she lobbied lawmakers on Capitol Hill for change, but her efforts to alter the rule stalled.

Now, her family wants to finish Kent's fight.

"The regulation still hasn't been fixed and that's something we're working on now," Joe Kent, 38, her widower and father of their two children, said last week. "We'd like to change it in her honor."

Shannon Kent wanted to attend the psychology program so she could help servicemembers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Joe Kent has said. What that, she also could have been closer to her children because there would have been less chance that she would deploy into combat zones.

She got initial Navy clearance to attend the program in early February 2018, but they reversed plans by the end of the month.

The Navy said Kent had to meet higher medical standards reserved for joining the service than the requirements for remaining an active servicemember, ruling her out because of the previous cancer.

A regulation contained within several sections of Chapter 15 of the Navy's Manual of Medical Department, which covers physical standards for medical examinations, lists several health conditions, including cancer, that can disqualify servicemembers from receiving commissions.

## 'Causes for rejection'

"Causes for rejection," reads section 15-34 of the chapter, which goes on to list several health conditions, including "tumor of thyroid or other structures of the neck."

Jones, a longtime vocal opponent of the post-9/11 wars who is now in hospice care, battling his own health issues, had asked Spencer last year to revise the Department of Defense rule that led to Kent's deployment.

"I am writing to ask for consideration of a potential policy change about the use of 'initial entry' medical standards as opposed to 'retention' medical standards in respect to officer accessions," he wrote in the Aug. 17 letter to Spencer. "I think these practices may be discriminatory while prohibiting upward mobility and advancement opportunities."

Spencer responded to Jones on Sept. 20, writing the Navy could not change a DOD rule, entitled Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction into the Military Services" but could address the waiver process that also stopped Kent's

request. Lawmakers on Friday also referenced the exchange in their letter to Shanahan and Spencer.

"To our knowledge, the status of her waiver application was unresolved at the time of her death in Syria," the lawmakers wrote. "When servicemembers like CPO Kent seek to continue their service but require a waiver to do so, providing efficient and thoughtful consideration of their requests is essential."

The lawmakers asked Spencer provide an update on the Navy's efforts to revise the regulations to ensure a clear mechanism to appeal waivers and to standardize the process. They are also requesting an update of Kent's specific waiver application.

The lawmakers also want a briefing from military officials on how it delineates between servicemembers who meet retention and deployment standards versus standards required to enter the service.

## An important distinction

"We recognize the importance in this distinction, as it allows some servicemembers with medical challenges to remain in uniform and continue adding value to our military even though they would not be qualified to join as a new recruit," they wrote.

Kent was part of a small, secretive cryptologic intelligence community. She was based out of Fort Meade, Md., and was part of the Navy's Cryptologic Warfare Activity 66, a unit within Cryptologic Warfare Group 6 that focuses on national, strategic and tactical-level intelligence, military officials have said.

She was killed doing intelligence legwork as part of larger efforts to track remnants of ISIS, Joe Kent said.

Shannon Kent was due to return to the U.S. by April and hoped to attend Officer Development School in June and her post-nominal academic studies as part of her commissioning program in August.

Last year, the Navy essentially disqualified Kent from pursuing her doctoral studies because she had thyroid cancer in 2016. The thyroid was removed and the cancer was cured that year, followed by several scans showing she was clear of the illness, her family said.

"If we are healthy enough to deploy worldwide, why are we not healthy enough to pursue doctorate programs?" Shannon Kent wrote in an April 2018 letter to the then-chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the late Arizona Republican John McCain, who died in August.

Last week, Kent's family wrote to Adm.



Courtesy of Joe Kent

**Shannon Mary Kent, shown in Balad, Iraq, in 2007 on her first combat deployment, was a Navy chief petty officer on her fifth deployment when she was killed Jan. 16 in Manbij, Syria.**

William Moran, the vice chief of naval operations, to ask for his help in changing the rule that they contend has blocked some enlisted personnel from becoming officers.

The family met Moran at Dover Air Force Base, Del., when Shannon's remains were returned from overseas on Jan. 19. Kent is to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in the coming weeks.

Shanahan's office declined to comment Monday on the letter but said they will respond directly to the lawmakers. Spencer's office did not comment immediately. However, Navy officials have said the regulation is now under review.

"The first thing we ought to make sure that we honor Chief Kent for her tremendous sacrifice and her commitment to her oath to support and defend the Constitution," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson told reporters Friday at the Pentagon. "We want to be mindful that we're standing and communicating with her family first and foremost as we work through this. And so I would just want to leave it there out of respect."

Stars and Stripes Staff writer Caitlin Kenney contributed to this report. [grisales.claudia@stars.com](mailto:grisales.claudia@stars.com) Twitter: @cgrisales

## Navy judge rules SEAL's re-enlistment next to ISIS corpse not a crime

By ANDREW DYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A judge has dropped two of the charges against a Navy SEAL who is facing a high-profile war crimes prosecution.

Navy Capt. Aaron Ruth, the judge in the court-martial of Chief Petty Officer Edward R. Gallagher, 49, stripped away two of the charges against the SEAL — one related to his re-enlistment next to the body of a slain teenage Islamic State fighter and another related to him allegedly operating a drone over the corpse.

The other charges stand.

Gallagher is still charged with

premeditated murder for allegedly stabbing to death the previously wounded teenage fighter and with aggravated assault for allegedly shooting at civilians during a 2017 deployment to Iraq.

The chief special warfare operator also still faces an allegation he posed for photos with the young fighter's body and charges he allegedly obstructed justice by attempting to discourage members of his platoon from reporting him and then allegedly retaliated against subordinates who did.

Colby Voke, one of Gallagher's attorneys, said in an email Monday that the ruling dismissing two

charges exposes weaknesses in the government's case.

"We are grateful that these two charges — serious accusations — won't be a part of the trial," he said. "There has to be a limit on what kind of accusations can be brought against our warriors fighting ISIS in a combat zone."

Brian O'Rourke, a Navy spokesman, said the ruling does not affect the rest of the case against Gallagher. As of Monday, the text of the ruling had not been released.

The judge's ruling could have ramifications outside of Gallagher's case.

Gallagher's platoon commander, Lt. Jacob Portier, also faces

court-martial for charges that he was aware of complaints against Gallagher but did not report them. Portier also has been charged with conduct unbecoming an officer for conducting Gallagher's re-enlistment ceremony.

Jeremiah Sullivan, Portier's attorney, said he is confident the judge's ruling will help his client's case.

"I've been saying all along it's not a crime to conduct a re-enlistment ceremony on the battlefield," Sullivan said.

Prosecutors charged Portier with making a false official statement, for telling his superiors that "there was nothing criminal

(about the re-enlistment), it was just in poor taste."

Unlike Gallagher's case, which is barreling toward a trial date of Feb. 19, Portier's has been delayed while a judge considers whether a previous protective order prevented a defense from interviewing witnesses.

Sullivan hopes to roll the case back to a hearing that would re-evaluate the charges against his client.

Navy Capt. Jonathan Stephens, the judge in Portier's court-martial, will hear arguments on Sullivan's motion Feb. 15.

"It's going to be a very interesting day," Sullivan said.



# WAR ON TERRORISM

## Study: Expert calls report 'a mixed bag'

### FROM FRONT PAGE

That study, whose existence and findings have not previously been made public, recommends a more open, standardized investigations process but does not seek to determine the root cause of a spike in casualties during the peak of the operation against ISIS.

Watchdog and advocacy groups see the effort as a hopeful sign but remain concerned it could reaffirm existing problems or fall short of the substantial change Pentagon leaders say they want.

"After two years of watching the death toll grow, it's really tempting to be satisfied that such a study took place," said Daniel Mahanty, director of the U.S. Program at the Center for Civilians in Conflict, or CIVIC, an advocacy group. "While we're happy that Pentagon leaders saw this as an important issue, our focus now is to make sure it results in meaningful changes to prevent casualties and ensure those who have been killed get the acknowledgment they deserve."

The attempt to determine a more accurate picture of the impact of operations on civilians and to codify steps to prevent deaths in the first place, nonetheless, represents a milestone close to two decades after the U.S. launched its global counterterrorism wars in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. "This is a massive undertaking, and it's about freaking time," said one former official familiar with the initiative who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions. "This should have happened in 2002."

In late 2017, discussions about civilian deaths had reached a fever pitch at the Pentagon's highest levels.

While the military had developed a system to keep civilians safe, including extensive measures to surveil targets and calculate the damage from explosions, senior officials knew they had a problem.

### Sense of crisis

The battles to liberate ISIS' twin capitals — Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria — included some of the most significant urban operations involving an additional force, the Vietnam War.

Unlike its previous war in Iraq, the Pentagon had only a small ground presence. Tiny cells of Americans worked to advise local forces pressing into military territory, inventing an additional challenge for air operations.

Galanizing a sense of crisis was a massive March 2017 bombing in Mosul that killed civilians. In an indication of the confusion that at times has characterized the U.S. response, officials initially said they were unsure if a U.S. strike was responsible for the destruction. Later, an investigation found that an American bomb had struck a building where militant snipers were positioned, setting off secondary explosions that led to its collapse and killed more

than 100 people sheltering inside.

Much of the scrutiny surrounded Trump's steps to empower commanders after he promised a swift end to the war and suggested the United States should "take out" militants' families. Then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis stressed the Pentagon's commitment to keeping civilians safe. He also pushed back against critics, saying they were trying to hold the military to a standard of zero errant deaths, something "that has never been achieved before in warfare."

"I'm never OK with any civilian casualty," Mattis told reporters in a heated December 2017 exchange. "Don't screw with me on this."

Behind the scenes that same month, Mattis took the unprecedented step of convening aid and watchdog groups at the Pentagon to confidentially discuss the plight of noncombatants. In that meeting, Mattis said he wanted to make sure his forces were equipped to minimize civilian harm.

"This was an opening salvo that they were taking this seriously," one participant said.

### Dunford's study

In early 2018, Dunford commissioned a study to address the accounting gap. That spring, a team of officials and external experts, led by scholars from the National Defense University, interviewed targeters and analyzed data from thousands of strikes.

One of the big arguments we were making was, 'How do you possibly know if you are minimizing civilian harm if you don't study it?'" the former official said.

While the Pentagon had decided against making the study public, Dunford later ordered it to be partially declassified in response to The Washington Post's plans to write about it.

Among its more critical findings, the study says the military has not adequately used outside information to verify whether civilians have died. It also found processes for examining allegations varied between geographic commands.

Recommendations included clarifying guidance and doctrine in operations that rely on partner forces; bolstering investigation cells; and developing a system for condolence payments or making amends.

On other issues, the study found existing procedures to be adequate and did not recommend changes to tactics or rules of engagement.

Sarah Margon, Washington director at Human Rights Watch, called the report "a mixed bag." "It's significant they're pursuing a larger policy for the Pentagon, but it should be. Some believed it findings make it questionable that they can really produce something meaningful," she said.

People familiar with the study described a disagreement between its authors over how critical it should be. Some believed it missed an opportunity to more di-



FELIPE DANA/AP

**A rescue team works to recover bodies from a destroyed house in Mosul, Iraq, during the battle to drive out Islamic State in March 2017. Residents said scores of people were killed by airstrikes that hit a cluster of homes in the area that month.**

rectly address shortcomings; others said a scathing analysis might lead operational commanders to dismiss it out of hand.

Those differences are visible in discussion of the system for distinguishing between combatants and civilians. While the study states the "positive identification" process — which typically relies on drone imagery or intelligence — "has sufficient guidance and structure and therefore does not increase the risk for civilian casualties," that assertion is disputed in a lengthy footnote by several authors who characterize it as a primary culprit.

If investigators rely on the same information to investigate a strike as they did to rule out the presence of civilians ahead of time, they argued, how could they possibly reach a conclusion that civilians died?

While the study ruled out several factors as being responsible for the increased civilian bloodshed, it stopped short of addressing what had.

### 'Command influence'

Larry Lewis, an expert on civilian casualties and an author of the study, said he believed the main drivers included a decision late in the Obama administration to increase the noncombatant value, a figure that represents the highest number of civilians strike planners can put at risk without seeking higher approval. He also pointed to what he characterized as "command emphasis," which he said had resulted in reduced civilian deaths in Afghanistan in the past.

Senior officials said they "took it as a given" that more strikes would result in more accidental deaths. "If you drop 10,000 bombs in a 5-square-mile area," a senior Joint Chiefs of Staff official said, "then you're going to see a greater effect against the enemy and also some greater impact on civilians."

After the study concluded last spring, officials began using the recommendations to develop a new policy. That effort, which has included tabletop exercises and

workshops on such issues as condolence payments, is expected to conclude in late 2019.

The process got underway, Congress was moving to require greater action. Responding to the spike in civilian deaths, lawmakers included measures in the annual defense bill to name a Pentagon coordinator and mandate greater transparency. Advocates saw the selection of David Trachtenberg, a higher-ranking official than the legislation required, as a positive move.

### 'A messy business'

In a recent interview, Trachtenberg said the department would consider a range of changes, from procedures to prepare air raids to poststrike assessments.

"War is a messy business, so we're not perfect," he said. But, "there is a serious commitment to doing what we need to do."

The Joint Staff has started to update internal manuals, while casualty investigators have increased their use of external information.

"We're not waiting," the Joint Chiefs of Staff official said.

Officials expressed confidence the initiative would not be affected by Mattis' resignation in December. A Pentagon spokesman said Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan supported the effort "to evaluate and — where possible — improve our ability to minimize civilian harm in our military operations and to be transparent when civilian casualties do occur."

While advocacy groups expressed reservations about the scope of the study and policy review, they praised the Pentagon for seeking to improve a system that is far more developed than the nations it fights alongside in Iraq and Syria.

But the military has already taken a step back ahead of the withdrawal from Syria, independent monitors said.

The military has reported over 1,600 strikes in Iraq and Syria since Trump's Dec. 16 declaration, accounting for a fifth of American strikes since 2014. But in a shift, the Pentagon has omitted details

on strike dates and locations, making it harder for outside groups to verify casualty reports.

Airwars Director Chris Woods described it as a "fairly fundamental" reversal of what has been an increasingly open system. Military officials cited operational concerns but did not provide details.

"Until these issues are embedded in the DNA of the Pentagon and its various military commands, decisions by different parts of the military will be able to impair how the department handles civilian harm," Woods said.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Military Discounts on all flights between January - March

Military ID-Card holders & family members only

Atlanta	414 €
Dallas	409 €
Las Vegas	399 €
Tampa	438 €

**Need help? Call us!**

**0621-72920**

**www.abctravel.de**

Flights from January 13 to March 31, 2019 RT from Germany. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service AG, Gönnerstrasse 9, 68309 Mannheim

## WAR ON TERRORISM

## CENTCOM commander says fight against ISIS not over

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The head of U.S. Central Command told senators Tuesday that Islamic State will be defeated in Syria and the terrorist group will not be capable of a resurgence after he U.S. troops leave the country. But he also said the fight is not yet over.

Army Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of CENTCOM, made the comments before a Senate panel following weeks of controversial and conflicting plans from top officials from President Donald Trump's administration on how U.S. troops will leave Syria.

Votel, who has had a 38-year career in the military, is due to leave his post at the end of next month.

"The fight against ISIS and violent extremists is not over and our mission has not changed" in Syria, Votel told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The [U.S.-led] coalition's hard-won battlefield gains can only be secured by maintaining a vigilant offensive against a now largely dispersed ISIS."

Votel, in an exchange with Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the committee, said the Syria withdrawal instructions entail "a very, deliberate approach to how we depart." Votel also confirmed to committee members that he believes the remaining ISIS stronghold in Syria will be elimi-

nated by the time of U.S. troops draw down.

Votel said between 20,000 and 30,000 ISIS fighters are left in the region, most of whom are underground or dispersed. He said one remaining ISIS stronghold of about 1,000 fighters remains within a 20-square-mile area near the southern Euphrates River and the Iraqi border.

However, a government watchdog report released Monday suggested ISIS in Syria could resume fighting in six to 12 months and regain territory in the Middle Euphrates River Valley without sustained counterterrorism pressure. Of the territories ISIS controlled two years ago, more than 99 percent has been returned to Syrians, military officials have said.

"We are in a very deliberate planning process for how we will work with the international community with our partners on the ground and with the rest of the

coalition to ensure we can keep pressure on this organization," Votel said.

The general also stopped short Tuesday of saying the U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria was time- or conditions-based and postponed many responses to a closed hearing with committee members on Tuesday afternoon.

In December, President Donald Trump stunned Capitol Hill and the Pentagon with plans that the roughly 2,000 U.S. troops fighting ISIS in Syria would withdraw from the country within 30 days. Since the Dec. 19 announcement, then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned and was replaced by his then-deputy Pat Shanahan in an acting capacity.

Shanahan backed Trump's decision last week to withdraw troops from Syria and he said the military was in the early stages of the process. He estimated ISIS would lose all of its Syrian territory in the next two weeks.

On Tuesday, Votel confirmed he learned of the Syria withdrawal with Trump's public announcement.

"I was not consulted," he said in an exchange with Sen. Angus King, I-Maine.

The administration has also since shifted its plans for what a withdrawal from Syria will look like or when it will happen, raising fierce concerns on both sides of the political aisle.

"In the case of Syria withdraw-

**"The fight against ISIS and violent extremists is not over and our mission has not changed (in Syria)."**

Gen. Joseph Votel  
CENTCOM  
commander

Valley without sustained counterterrorism pressure. Of the territories ISIS controlled two years ago, more than 99 percent has been returned to Syrians, military officials have said.

"We are in a very deliberate planning process for how we will work with the international community with our partners on the ground and with the rest of the

drawal as a "victory."

The quarterly report on Operation Inherent Resolve is the first to evaluate the campaign to defeat ISIS in Syria and Iraq since President Donald Trump announced in December that the military would withdraw its 2,200 troops from Syria.

"ISIS remains a battle-hardened and well-disciplined force," still capable of coordinating attacks, the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve told the inspector general's office.

There are about 2,000 ISIS fighters in the Middle Euphrates River Valley, in eastern Syria near the Iraqi border. The group

draws about 50 foreign fighters each month to Syria and Iraq, according to the report.

The withdrawal of troops in Syria is in the "early stages," Acting Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan told reporters at the Pentagon on Jan. 29. "We are on a deliberate, coordinated, disciplined withdrawal."

Of the territories ISIS controlled two years ago, more than 99.5 percent has been returned to Syrians, according to Shanahan, and it will be 100 percent in a couple of weeks.

In a tweet Friday, Trump said, "Syria was loaded with ISIS until I came along. We will soon have destroyed 100 percent

of the Caliphate, but will be watching them closely. It is now time to start coming home and, after many years, spending our money wisely."

The Syria Democratic Forces — U.S. backed Syrian rebels — heavily rely on the coalition's air support for protection and offensive operations against ISIS, the report said.

"The Coalition's support is vital to the SDF's ability to defeat ISIS," the task force told the inspector general's office in late December.

Kennedy.Caitlin@starsandstripes.com  
@caitlinkenney



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Army Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, testifies during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday. Votel said he was not consulted about withdrawing troops from Syria.

al, contradictory statements by the president, his national security adviser and other administration officials have only served to underscore that this decision was anything but thoughtful and deliberate," said Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, the panel's ranking Democrat.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., a newcomer to the Senate and the panel, said the move has been clouded in confusion.

"I think the administration has sent some really mixed messages about the terms of the U.S. withdrawal from Syria," she said.

Senate lawmakers also raised concerns Tuesday that the Kurds in Syria, who have fought alongside U.S. troops, must not be

abandoned and left to be annihilated by Turkey.

"If they are slaughtered by the Turks, it will be a stain on the honor of this country that will persist" and hurt our ability to attract allies in future, King said.

Last week, Blackburn and Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., a combat pilot veteran, wrote to Trump, requesting he stay away from such a move.

"The fact is the president made a decision and we are going to execute his orders to withdraw forces from Syria and as we do that we are going to do that in a very deliberate manner," Votel told lawmakers.

grisales.claudia@starsandstripes.com  
Twitter: @cgrisales

## Report: ISIS could resurge without sustained pressure

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Islamic State in Syria could resurge within six to 12 months and regain territory in the Middle Euphrates River Valley without "sustained counterterrorism pressure," according to a Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General report released Monday.

U.S. Central Command made the comment in January to the DoD OIG after being asked about the impact of U.S. troop withdrawal on ISIS in Syria. CENTCOM also said that ISIS could attack U.S. troops as they leave and would claim the with-

drawal as a "victory." The quarterly report on Operation Inherent Resolve is the first to evaluate the campaign to defeat ISIS in Syria and Iraq since President Donald Trump announced in December that the military would withdraw its 2,200 troops from Syria.

"ISIS remains a battle-hardened and well-disciplined force," still capable of coordinating attacks, the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve told the inspector general's office.

There are about 2,000 ISIS fighters in the Middle Euphrates River Valley, in eastern Syria near the Iraqi border. The group

draws about 50 foreign fighters each month to Syria and Iraq, according to the report.

The withdrawal of troops in Syria is in the "early stages," Acting Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan told reporters at the Pentagon on Jan. 29. "We are on a deliberate, coordinated, disciplined withdrawal."

Of the territories ISIS controlled two years ago, more than 99.5 percent has been returned to Syrians, according to Shanahan, and it will be 100 percent in a couple of weeks.

In a tweet Friday, Trump said, "Syria was loaded with ISIS until I came along. We will soon have destroyed 100 percent

of the Caliphate, but will be watching them closely. It is now time to start coming home and, after many years, spending our money wisely."

The Syria Democratic Forces — U.S. backed Syrian rebels — heavily rely on the coalition's air support for protection and offensive operations against ISIS, the report said.

"The Coalition's support is vital to the SDF's ability to defeat ISIS," the task force told the inspector general's office in late December.

Kennedy.Caitlin@starsandstripes.com  
@caitlinkenney

## Senate breaks with Trump on troop withdrawal from Syria, Afghanistan

By MARY CLARE LALONC  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Tuesday to oppose the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria and Afghanistan, breaking with President Donald Trump as he calls for a military drawdown in those countries.

Sensors voted 70-26 for the amendment sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The measure says Islamic

State and al-Qaida militants still pose a serious threat to the United States, and it warns that "a precipitous withdrawal" of U.S. forces from those countries could "allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia."

Trump abruptly tweeted plans for a U.S. pullout from Syria in December, arguing that ISIS had been defeated even though his intelligence chiefs have said it

remains a threat. Trump also ordered the military to develop plans to remove up to half of the 14,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The strong bipartisan vote comes as Republican senators have increasingly diverged from Trump on foreign policy. When he introduced the amendment last week, McConnell said "ISIS and al-Qaida have yet to be defeated."

McConnell's amendment, which is nonbinding, would encourage cooperation between the

White House and Congress to develop long-term strategies in both nations, "including a thorough accounting of the risks of withdrawing too hastily."

While the majority of senators voted for the amendment, a handful of Republicans voted against it. McConnell's Kentucky colleague, Republican Sen. Rand Paul said before the vote that "enough is enough" and the money spent on wars should be spent at home.

"I want to compliment Presi-

dent Trump for being bold and brave," Paul said.

Many of the most liberal members of the Senate — including several Democrats who are eyeing presidential runs in 2020 — also voted against the amendment. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and others have agreed with Paul that the United States should withdraw, though they have criticized Trump for his sudden announcement.

## MILITARY

# Afghan Black Hawk program short on pilots to fly them

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Plans to replace Afghanistan's aging fleet of Russian helicopters with American-made UH-60 Black Hawks may be unsustainable because of a lack of qualified pilots and engineers, a government watchdog has warned.

The Black Hawks, estimated to cost up to \$7 billion, are part of an effort to modernize the Afghan air force, which officials say is necessary for the government to be able to fend off enemies without international support. The plan calls for the Afghan air force to receive 159 Black Hawks by 2023. These will replace about 80 aging Russian-built Mi-17 "Hip" helicopters currently in the air force's inventory.

Less than two years after the Black Hawk program began, it is at least 16 pilots short of plans, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a report released Tuesday. How-

ever, it doesn't appear the Defense Department has changed the number of aircraft being delivered to the country, which risks wasting U.S. taxpayer dollars, it added.

"Despite the fact that pilot development is not keeping pace, DOD has yet to establish benchmarks it can use to determine whether it should pause deliveries or reduce the number of UH-60s it will deliver to the Afghans, running the risk that the aircraft it delivers will sit idle in Afghanistan without enough pilots to fly them," SIGAR said.

The watchdog said "unrealistic" English proficiency levels and false assumptions about attrition were partly to blame for the pilot shortage.

There is also a lack of qualified engineers needed to maintain the new aircraft and no training course to teach them, the report said.

"Having insufficient Afghan maintenance personnel limits the locations at which UH-60s can operate because DOD policy bars

U.S. contractors from working where there is no U.S. or coalition control due to security concerns," the report said.

Russian Mi-17s have long formed the backbone of Afghanistan's air force. Afghan airmen and engineers are familiar with the aircraft and need very little advice from international partners on how to fly and maintain them.

However, as the U.S. primarily bankrolls the Afghan military, sanctions against Russian arms manufacturers have made servicing the Mi-17 fleet increasingly difficult.

Congress agreed to replace the Mi-17 fleet with U.S.-made helicopters following a Pentagon assessment in 2017 that the Russian helicopters would soon become unsustainable.

When it was first announced, it sparked grumbling among some Afghan pilots who said the Russian helicopters are simpler to maintain and have better "hot-and-high" performance — mean-



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

An Afghan pilot practices flying one of Afghanistan's new UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters at Kandahar Airfield in November 2017.

ing they can carry more cargo and more troops and operate at higher altitudes — a key consideration in a mountainous country like Afghanistan.

The initial difficulties of transitioning to the Black Hawks documented by SIGAR came amid increasing speculation about a possible pullout of U.S. and coalition forces and ongoing concerns that the Afghan military would struggle to cope on its own.

The watchdog has called for the improvement of pilot train-

ing timetables and English skills, in addition to a program to train Afghan maintenance crews, who would eventually replace foreign contractors.

In a response, the Defense Department said it had "developed a proposed training plan that includes establishing a maintenance development center outside of Afghanistan that will focus specifically on training entry-level UH-60 maintenance personnel."

welldan.phillip@stripes.com  
Twitter: @ppwellman

## Europe: US lawmakers raising alarms about their home-state projects

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Hundreds of projects could be at risk of losing their funding to Trump's wall — including a \$60 million aircraft maintenance hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina; a \$105 million command-and-control facility at Fort Shafter in Hawaii; and a \$32 million vehicle maintenance shop at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

Lawmakers have begun raising alarms about their home-state projects getting targeted. In a news release Monday, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-N.Y., complained about the potential for projects at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, including a \$95 million engineering center, to end up on Trump's hit list.

"It doesn't matter if you support building a wall or not," Maloney said. "We can't steal funding from the next generation of military leaders to do it."

This type of domestic blowback, which could surface in numerous states, including some critical to Trump's 2020 re-election prospects, has led to expectations among congressional aides in both parties that Trump could go after overseas construction projects. A significant portion of that money is dedicated to projects that are part of the European Deterrence Initiative, an effort to help U.S. allies in Europe shore up their defenses against Russia.

The military construction budget dedicates about \$800 million in the 2019 budget year toward the initiative, which was created after Russia's invasion of Ukraine to bolster the U.S. presence in East-



ANDREW MCNEIL/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. Army Spc. Joseph Ledford, with the 194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee National Guard, trains on equipment while building foundations and roads during Resolute Castle 2018 at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, on May 12.

ern Europe. The money pays for projects such as staging areas, refueling stations and other efforts aimed at helping NATO allies defend against encroaching Russian threats, and it is considered a crucial part of the security alliance that Trump has often jeered as he suggests partner nations have not contributed enough to cooperative defense.

"For him to suggest that a border wall, where there is not an emergency, not a crisis, is more important to fund — and steal money from an account where

there is certainly a crisis because Russian aggression in Europe has been absolutely over the top — it just shows how dramatically out of touch the president is," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee that deals with military construction. "He has no understanding or interest in our national security interests."

Any move by Trump to dip into those overseas funds or domestic spending in the military construction budget is sure to get a hard look from Congress, law-

makers said Monday.

"The concern is," said Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, who chairs the Armed Services subcommittee that oversees military construction, "we are all trying — the White House, the Congress — to rebuild our military, and that is an area that, depending on where it came from, could undermine that goal."

"It's going to be a lot of tough questions by Armed Services (Committee) members about where's the money coming from, what projects is it coming out of,"

said Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., a committee member. "If he goes the MilCon (military construction) route, the money that he's taking is money for which there really is a need."

Trump is pushing Congress to give him \$5.7 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds to build more than 200 new miles of walls along the southern border, despite his repeated promise that Mexico would pay for the wall. Democrats oppose his request, a dispute that led to a 35-day partial government shutdown that ended Jan. 25 when Trump signed a short-term spending bill containing no money for his wall.

The stopgap bill expires Feb. 15, leaving Congress less than two weeks to come up with a solution that could satisfy both the president and his Democratic antagonists.

A bipartisan committee of House and Senate lawmakers is working behind the scenes toward that goal, but it's unclear if it'll be able to reach an agreement. Trump has repeatedly dismissed its efforts as a "waste of time" because he doesn't think the lawmakers will agree to give him the money he wants for his wall, and he's suggested that he could end up declaring a national emergency instead.

The possibility that Trump could tap into unspent military construction or Army Corps of Engineers funds — another potential pot of money available to him under a national emergency declaration — has raised a new set of concerns, with lawmakers lobbying the president directly on the issue to try to ensure that their priorities are not touched.



## WAR/MILITARY

# Official: Taliban hit Afghan army base, killing at least 26

By RAHIM FAIEZ  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban launched a predawn attack on an army base in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at least 26 members of the security forces, a provincial official said, the latest brazen assault by insurgents amid stepped-up efforts to resolve the country's protracted war.

The raid on the base in northern Kunduz province came as representatives of the Taliban were to hold meetings in Moscow with prominent Afghan figures, including former President Hamid Karzai, opposition leaders and tribal elders — but not Kabul government officials.

The insurgents have refused to negotiate with President Ashraf Ghani's government, calling it a U.S. puppet. The Taliban have been staging near-daily attacks, inflicting heavy casualties on the embattled Afghan army and security forces. Both sides in the conflict say they want to strike hard militarily to bolster their position at the negotiating table.

In the Kunduz attack, the Taliban stormed the base, located on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Kunduz, at about 2 a.m., said Mohammad Yusof Ayubi, head of the provincial council. There were at least 23 soldiers and three members of the local police force among those slain.

According to Ayubi, 12 troops were wounded in the Taliban onslaught, which lasted for over two hours until reinforcements arrived at the besieged base and the attackers were repelled.

"Day by day, the security situation is getting worse in and around Kunduz city," said Ayubi, adding there are fears the city could again fall into the hands of the Taliban, as it did briefly on two occasions in recent years — in September 2015 and in October 2016.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah

Mujahid issued a statement to the media saying the Taliban were behind the Kunduz attack, claiming the insurgents had overrun three police checkpoints as the attack unfolded.

Earlier Tuesday, Afghan officials reported two more Taliban attacks that left 21 people dead, including 11 policemen killed when the insurgents stormed a checkpoint in northern Baghlan province's Baghlani Markazi district.

The checkpoint attack in Baghlan took place on Monday night and triggered a firefight that lasted for almost two hours, said Saifur Mohsini, head of the provincial council. Five policemen were wounded, and the Taliban seized all weapons and ammunition from the checkpoint before reinforcements arrived, he said.

"They arrived there late, fought back and managed to get the checkpoint under control," he added.

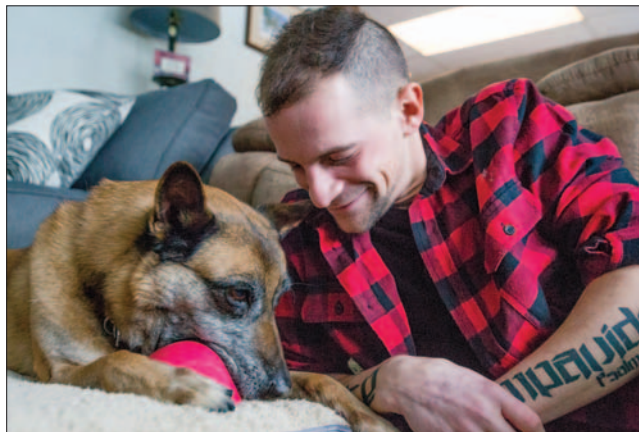
Earlier Monday, the Taliban targeted a local pro-government militia in a village in northern Samangan province, killing 10 people there, including a woman, said Sediq Azizi, the provincial governor's spokesman. Four people were wounded in that attack, in Dara-I Suf district, he said.

According to Azizi, the Taliban targeted local villagers, including women and children. As the area is very remote, the villagers have their own militia to defend their homes from the insurgents.

The Taliban claimed both the Baghlan and Samangan attacks.

Far from the Afghan war zone, a two-day meeting in the Russian capital between the Taliban and Afghan figures, which started Tuesday, is seen as another step in a process aimed at resolving the 17-year war. That process has accelerated since the appointment last September of U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

But the meeting has sidelined Ghani's government, which has criticized the negotiations.



BECKY MALEWITZ, THE SOUTH BEND (IND.) TRIBUNE/AP

## Reunited at last

Joe Steenbeke plays with his newly adopted dog, Tess, at their home in Culver, Ind. Steenbeke, a veteran, was reunited with the bomb-sniffing dog he served with years ago in Afghanistan. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Ind., called Steenbeke on Jan. 23 to inform him that he'll be able to adopt Tess, a Belgian Malinois whose ID number is tattooed on his arm. The South Bend Tribune reported that Steenbeke hadn't seen Tess since his tour in Afghanistan ended in 2013, but he's been trying to adopt her ever since. "We're just looking forward to giving her a good retirement life. She's worked so hard her entire life. Now she gets to sit back and have fun and live like an eccentric billionaire," he said with a laugh.

## US urges nations to repatriate and prosecute foreign fighters in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The United States on Monday called on other nations to repatriate and prosecute their citizens who traveled to Syria to fight with Islamic State and who are now being held by Washington's local partners.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces say they have detained more than 900 foreign fighters during their U.S.-backed campaign against ISIS in northeastern Syria, where they are currently battling to drive the extremists from their last tiny pocket of territory.

The question of what to do with the detained foreigners has grown increasingly thorny since Presi-

dent Donald Trump's surprise announcement in December that he intends to withdraw all American forces from the country.

"The United States calls upon other nations to repatriate and prosecute their citizens detained by the SDF and commends the continued efforts of the SDF to return these foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin," State Department deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said in a statement.

The statement came as the SDF announced the capture this month of three alleged ISIS fighters from Germany, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In addition to the hundreds of militants, the SDF are also holding more than 4,000

family members of ISIS fighters.

Very few countries have expressed readiness to repatriate their citizens, posing a dilemma for the Kurdish-led forces, particularly after the US said it plans to withdraw.

Last week, France's Interior Minister Christophe Castaner told French media that a handful of French jihadists had already returned home and more would follow soon after the departure of American troops. Britain refuses to take back citizens who joined ISIS and has reportedly stripped them of their citizenship. Other European countries have remained largely silent about the fate of men and women whom many see as a security threat.

## Lawmakers issue bipartisan call for more transparency from VA

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Republicans and Democrats in Congress asked Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie on Monday to work with them more closely and openly in the agency implements sweeping reforms in the coming months.

In a letter, leaders of the veterans affairs and appropriations committees urged Wilkie for a "more collaborative relationship" with Congress in the near term." Since he was confirmed

in July, Wilkie's team at the VA has provided briefings that was "somewhat limited in scope and details," they wrote.

"As we begin a new Congress, we expect regular, detailed briefings to continue and that you will take a collaborative approach that maximizes transparency and demonstrates your intent that Congress be a full and true partner in implementation of these critical laws and initiatives," the letter reads.

It was signed by Sens. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., Jon Tester, D-

Mont., John Boozman, R-Ark., and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, and by Reps. Mark Takano, D-Calif., Phil Roe, R-Tenn., Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., and John Carter, R-Texas.

In response to the letter, VA press secretary Curt Cashour said the VA was "more transparent than ever before."

In fiscal year 2018, the agency participated in 71 congressional hearings, a 20 percent increase from fiscal year 2017, Cashour said. He added that the VA conducted more than 1,302 briefings,

a 54 percent increase from the previous year.

"We welcome congressional oversight, and Secretary Wilkie's cooperative relationship with lawmakers has helped VA achieve more substantive reforms than at any other time in decades," Cashour said.

He also said the VA would respond directly to the lawmakers' letter, which was the latest in a series of calls for more transparency from the VA, though previous pleadings were made largely by Democrats.

Last week, after the VA publicly announced proposed rules to expand veterans' access to private doctors, lawmakers and veterans' organizations complained about little forewarning or information about the proposals.

The draft rules are part of the VA Mission Act, a major VA reform law scheduled to take effect in June that the lawmakers said would "fundamentally transform the delivery of veterans' health care."

wentling.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

# NATION



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

**A clerk reaches for a container of marijuana buds Oct. 2 for a customer at Utopia Gardens, a medical marijuana dispensary in Detroit. Chronic pain is the most commonly cited reason people give when they enroll in state medical cannabis programs.**

## Chronic pain tops list for using medical pot

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON

Associated Press

Chronic pain is the most common reason people give when they enroll in state-approved medical marijuana programs.

That's followed by stiffness from multiple sclerosis and chemotherapy-related nausea, according to an analysis of 15 states published Monday in the journal *Health Affairs*.

The study didn't measure whether marijuana actually helped anyone with their problems, but the patients' reasons match up with what's known about the science of marijuana and its chemical components.

"The majority of patients for whom we have data are using cannabis for reasons where the science is the strongest," said lead author Kevin Boehnke of University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. California became the first state to allow medical use of marijuana in 1996. More than 30 states now allow marijuana for dozens of health problems. Lists of allowable conditions vary by state, but in general, a doctor must certify a patient has an approved diagnosis.

While the U.S. government has approved medicines based on compounds found in the plant, it considers marijuana illegal and imposes limits on research.

The analysis is based on 2016

data from the 15 states that reported the reasons given for using marijuana. Researchers compared the symptoms and conditions with a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence; a 2017 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

About 85 percent of patients' reasons were supported by substantial or conclusive evidence in the National Academies report.

About two-thirds of the about 730,000 reasons were related to chronic pain, the study found. Patients could report more than one pain condition, so the figure may overestimate patient numbers.

Patients include Brandian Smith, 37, of Pana, Ill., who qualifies because she has fibromyalgia. She said she has stopped taking opioid painkillers because marijuana works better for her.

The study also found:

■ Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon saw a decline in medical marijuana patients after legalization of recreational marijuana in those states.

■ More than 800,000 patients were enrolled in medical marijuana programs in 2017 in 19 states. That doesn't count California and Maine, which don't require patients to register. Other estimates have put the number at more than 2 million.

## Source: Trump to tap critic of agency to lead World Bank

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump plans to nominate David Malpass, a Trump administration critic of the World Bank, to lead the institution.

That's according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to comment publicly on personnel decisions.

Trump is expected to make an announcement later this week.

Malpass, the undersecretary

for international affairs at the Treasury Department, has been a sharp critic of the World Bank, especially over its lending to China.

Malpass would succeed Jim Yong Kim, who announced in January that he is stepping down three years before his term was set to expire.

The final decision on a successor to Kim will be up to the bank's board.

Politico was first to report on the nomination.

# Subpoena seeks documents from inaugural committee

White House press secretary says probe is part of 'a hysteria'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal subpoena seeking documents from Donald Trump's inaugural committee is part of "a hysteria" over the fact that he's president, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Tuesday.

Federal prosecutors in New York issued the subpoena on Monday, furthering a federal inquiry into a fund that has faced mounting scrutiny into how it raised and spent its money.

Inaugural committee spokeswoman Kristin Cealuro told The Associated Press that the committee had received the subpoena and was still reviewing it. "It is our intention to cooperate with the inquiry," she said.

The investigation is the latest in a series of criminal inquiries into Trump's campaign and presidency.

"Actually, I think the common thread is a hysteria over the fact that this president became president," Sanders said in response to a CNN question. "The common thread is that there is so much hatred out there that they will look for anything to try to create and tie problems to this president."

Later, Sanders reiterated to reporters that the investigation "has nothing to do with the White House."

"I think the biggest focus and the thing that most Americans care about has nothing to do with the inaugural and it has everything to do with what the path forward looks like," she said.

The Wall Street Journal, citing a copy of the subpoena, reported that prosecutors asked for "all documents" related to the committee's donors and vendors, as well as records relating to "benefits" donors received after making contributions.

The newspaper reported late last year that federal prosecutors are investigating whether committee donors made contributions in exchange for political favors — a potential violation of federal corruption laws.

It said the inquiry also was focused on whether the inauguration misspent the \$107 million it raised to stage events celebrating Trump's inauguration.

The subpoena also requested documents relating to donations "made by or on behalf of foreign nationals, including but not limited to any communications regarding or relating to the possibility of donations by foreign nationals," the Journal reported.

The New York Times reported late last year that federal prosecutors are examining whether anyone from Qatar, Saudi Arabia or other Middle Eastern countries made illegal payments to the committee and a pro-Trump super political action committee. Foreign contributions to inaugural funds and PACs are prohibited under federal law.

The head of the inaugural committee, Tom Barrack, confirmed to The Associated Press that he was questioned by special counsel Robert Mueller in 2017. He told the AP he was not a target of the Mueller investigation.

# CAST YOUR VOTE!

**to determine the annual BEST OF THE PACIFIC!**

**You have a chance to win a \$300 gift card!**

**Your vote matters!**

STARS AND STRIPES

**Vote online by March 24 at [bestofpacific.stripes.com](http://bestofpacific.stripes.com)**

# NATION

# Va. governor clings to office amid furor

By ALAN SUDERMAN  
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam clung to his office Tuesday amid intense political fallout over a racist photo in his 1984 medical school yearbook and uncertainty about the future of the state's government.

Nearly all of the state's Democratic establishment has turned against the 59-year-old Democrat after the picture surfaced late last week of someone in blackface next to another person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe. Nationally, Democrats have denounced Northam, too, but no one from his Cabinet has resigned.

The politician next in line to be governor, Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, has denied an uncorroborated allegation of sexual misconduct first reported by a conservative website. Fairfax told reporters the 2004 encounter with a woman was consensual, and he called the accusation a political smear.

The woman accusing Fairfax has retained Washington, D.C., law firm Katz Marshall & Banks and is consulting with the firm about next steps, said a person close to the legal team who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. One of the firm's founding partners, Debra Katz, represent-

ed Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her decades ago when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh denied the allegation and later was confirmed to the court.

Northam, a pediatric neurologist who graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School and came to politics late in life, is one year into his four-year term.

The sense of uncertainty over the state government's future heightened Tuesday, known as the General Assembly's "crossover day" — a deadline set by lawmakers as the last day for bills to be heard in the House or the Senate before crossing over to the other chamber. It's one of the busiest legislative days of the year.

Northam stayed out of sight Monday as he met with his Cabinet and senior staff to hear their assessment of whether it was feasible for him to stay in office, according to a top administration official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The meetings included frank conversations about the difficulties of governing under such circumstances, the person said.

Calls from lawmakers for Northam's resignation seemed to ease. State Del. Lamont Bagby, leader of the Legislative Black Caucus, said Monday that there



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, with his wife, Pam, speaks at a news conference in the governor's mansion in Richmond on Saturday.

was little left to say: "I'm going to let him breathe a little bit, give him space to make the right decision."

Finance Secretary Aubrey Layne said he told Northam the state cannot afford a prolonged period of uncertainty over his future. Northam's office is in the middle of negotiations with GOP lawmakers over a major tax overhaul and changes to the state budget. The Republicans control both houses of the legislature.

"One way or the other, it needs to be resolved," Layne said.

The furor over the photo erupted Friday, when Northam first admitted he was in the picture without saying which person he was wearing, and apologized. But a day later, he denied he was in the photo, while also acknowledging he once put on blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest in Texas decades ago.

The state's Republican House

speaker said lawmakers are hesitant to seek Northam's impeachment and hope he steps down instead.

"Obviously on impeachment, that's a very high standard," Speaker Kirk Cox said. "And so I have called for the resignation. We hope that's what the governor does. I think that would obviously be less pain for everyone."

Referring to the allegation against him, Fairfax said he was not surprised it came at a critical time: "It's at that point that they come out with the attacks and the smears. It is unfortunate. It really is, but it's sadly a part of our politics now."

The Washington Post said Monday that it was approached by the woman in 2017 and carefully investigated but never published a story for lack of any independent evidence. The Post said the woman had not told anyone about it, the account could not be corroborated, Fairfax denied it, and the Post was unable to find other similar allegations against him among people who knew him in college, law school or in politics.

Last week, Northam came under fire from Republicans who have accused him of backing infanticide after he said he supported a bill loosening restrictions on late-term abortions.

## Oprah offers big stage for O'Rourke

By WILL WEISSERT  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Beto O'Rourke's weeks of near-silence end on a massive stage when he sits down for an interview with Oprah Winfrey.

The appearance Tuesday on "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square" comes ahead of a possible presidential campaign and puts O'Rourke's charisma to the test.

O'Rourke dazzled Democrats last year by nearly defeating Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in the country's largest red state. But his presidential prospects have been overshadowed more recently with the generally well-received 2020 campaign launches of Sens. Kamala Harris, of California; Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts; and Cory Booker, of New Jersey.

After months of on-again off-again flirtation with a campaign, O'Rourke's supporters say they're ready for some clarity.

"A lot of people have been projecting their own desires to see him run and they're hoping that he will announce on Oprah, which would be so fitting," said Nate Lerner, co-founder of Draft Beto, a group of Democratic activists who are raising money and building a potential campaign infrastructure should O'Rourke run. "I'm hoping he at least does give some indication of where he's at."



Eric Gax/AP

**Former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, is sitting down with Oprah Winfrey with the chance to take back a 2020 spotlight that has lately been seized by a first wave of top Democratic primary contenders who have already jumped into the presidential race.**

Lerner may not even get that much, though. O'Rourke's aides say he is still making up his mind on a White House run and isn't expected to announce a decision during Tuesday's taping.

Still, his association with Winfrey could be helpful if O'Rourke decides to pursue a campaign. Winfrey's endorsement of Barack Obama was pivotal to his 2008 campaign. She also took the rare step of campaigning for Democrat Stacey Abrams ahead of her near-upset in the 2018 Georgia governor's race.

Winfrey herself has been the center of 2020 speculation, though she has said she doesn't plan to run.

Her show blurs the line be-

tween politics and pop culture. The lineup on Tuesday also features actors Bradley Cooper and Michael B. Jordan and philanthropist Melinda Gates, underscoring the sense of celebrity that surrounds O'Rourke.

The taping comes amid the fallout of a racist photo on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook page. While all of the declared Democratic presidential candidates have demanded Northam's resignation, O'Rourke hasn't commented. That may change if he's pressed by Winfrey.

Though the taping is Tuesday, the interview won't air on Winfrey's network until Feb. 16.

## 'Medicare-for-all' a hot topic among 2020 Dems

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "Medicare-for-all" is quickly becoming a rallying cry for many Democratic White House hopefuls, but there are growing questions about how to pull off such a dramatic switch to a government-run health care system.

The debate over scrapping private insurers has heated up in recent days since Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, of California, a supporter of "Medicare-for-all," told CNN's Jake Tapper, "Who of us has not had that situation, where you've got to wait for approval, and the doctor says, well, I don't know if your insurance company is going to cover this? Let's eliminate all of that. Let's move on."

But since her nationally televised remarks, several of Harris' rivals have pointedly spoken about their plans to work toward universal health care in more pragmatic, incremental ways. Those Democrats portray the single-payer health care proposal they've backed as one strategy to achieve universal coverage, while emphasizing the importance of other, less sweeping paths.

Among the skeptics, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said "Medicare-for-all" would "bankrupt us for a very

long time."

Uniting Democrats is a desire to guarantee coverage for all, including an estimated 29 million people who remain uninsured. Some are backing a plan that would let people buy into Medicare, with tax credits from the Obama-era Affordable Care Act.

At the forefront of the debate is Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare-for-all" bill, which holds out the promise of health care as a right, the potential for national savings from reduced administrative costs and government price-setting, and no surprise, deductibles or copay medical bills. His plan provisions a four-year transition, phasing in the change by age groups. Simultaneously, some big tax increases would be taking effect.

But there would be enormous changes to put in place a single-payer health insurance system, the government fully in control of the \$3.5 trillion U.S. health care system, experts say.

In addition to Harris, Democratic Sens. Cory Booker, of New Jersey; Kirsten Gillibrand, of New York; and Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, have signed onto the Sanders bill. Sens. Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota, and Sherrod Brown, of Ohio, also describe universal health care as an ultimate goal, but neither has signed onto Sanders' legislation.



## NATION

# Appeals court confirmations under Trump at historic high

By ANN E. MARIMOW  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has installed a historic number of federal appeals court judges for this point of a presidency.

But the immediate effect on the composition of the courts across the country is modest — and the rapid pace is unlikely to continue because of a limited number of remaining open seats.

The Senate confirmation of Trump's 30 appeals court judges is more than any other president's two years into a term.

His picks for the nation's 13 circuit courts, one step below the Supreme Court, predominantly are male and less diverse than those tapped by his predecessor.

They also include younger nominees, including a 36-year-old former clerk to Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch, which means Trump's conservative imprint on the federal judiciary will endure through cases involving state gun regulations, the environment, immigration and abortion.

Trump's nominees mostly add to conservative majorities on courts already dominated by judges picked by Republicans or narrow the margin on more liberal-leaning courts such as the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit, according to an analysis by judicial expert Russell Wheeler of the Brookings Institution.

A fill would occur only at the appeals court in Philadelphia, if the president's current nominees all are confirmed. Newly confirmed judges to the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit make that court evenly divided by judges nominated by Republicans and Democrats.

The shift in the balance nationally "is not as impressive as one might think," Wheeler said, but the longevity of Trump's choices will be, given their ages.

"When Trump replaces a 72-year-old slightly right-of-center judge with a 45-year-old conservative firebrand, it's not really apples for apples," Wheeler said.

Trump's Supreme Court nominees, Brett Kavanaugh and Gorsuch, drew widespread attention for solidifying a more conservative majority on the nation's highest court.

But while the justices resolved 69 cases in the term that ended in June, the 13 circuit courts handle tens of thousands of cases each year. That makes the appeals courts the last word in most matters affecting residents of the states they cover.

The regional circuits take appeals from the lower federal courts, and the appeals bench often is a steppingstone for the candidates presidents consider for the Supreme Court. All but one of the current justices, Elena Kagan, previously served on a circuit court.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's new chairman, Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is moving quickly to confirm the latest batch of nominees starting this week to confirm "as many as possible, as soon as possible," he said in a statement.

The Judicial Crisis Network, a key group supporting the administration's nominees, recently launched a \$1.5 million ad campaign calling on Senate Democrats to "confirm the judges."

But it isn't clear how many more vacancies Trump will get a chance to fill because openings turn on judges retiring, resigning or otherwise leaving.

Judges nominated by Demo-

cratic presidents may be less inclined to step down if it means giving Trump an opportunity to name their successor.

"Especially given the intensity of opposition in many quarters to President Trump, it's even less likely than usual that you would expect voluntary retirements from Democratic appointees," said conservative legal commentator Ed Whelan, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Remaking the appeals courts is a long game.

"It takes more than two years of strong appointments to begin to transform the courts," Whelan said.

There is no shortage of jurists who could leave or create an opening by shifting to a lighter workload known as "senior status." At least 60 of the 167 circuit judges are eligible because of a combination of their age — at least 65 — and years of service on the bench, according to Wheeler's analysis of Federal Judicial Center data.

When Trump took office in January 2017, he inherited a large number of court openings, including 17 on the federal appeals bench. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, during the last two years of the Obama administration, had delayed nominations.

McConnell and the White House Counsel's Office, led until recently by Donald McGahn, made the confirmation of conservative judges a top priority.

The push from nomination to confirmation has been quick. Trump's circuit court picks were confirmed after a median 146 days, compared to 229 for Obama's nominees, even though Trump's picks had to overcome more negative votes, Wheeler's analysis shows.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

**Neomi Rao, White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs administrator, left, smiles as President Donald Trump announces his intention to nominate her to fill a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, on Nov. 13 at the White House.**

## Liberals decry remarks by Trump judicial pick on date rape, gay rights

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Liberal activists are targeting President Donald Trump's nominee to replace Brett Kavanaugh on a high-profile appeals court, citing what they call her extreme views on race, sexual assault and LGBT rights.

Trump nominated Neomi Rao for a seat on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit left vacant when Kavanaugh joined the Supreme Court. She currently serves as administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, where she plays a key role in Trump's efforts to roll back federal rules and regulations.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing Tuesday to consider Rao's nomination.

Rao, 45, worked in the George W. Bush White House but has never tried a case in court.

Critics have seized on her college writings in which she criticized affirmative action, suggested that intoxicated women were partly responsible for date rape and said LGBT rights were part of a "trendy" political movement. The 1995 Yale graduate also faulted environmental groups that "accept issues such as global warming as truth with no reference to the prevailing scientific doubts."

Dan Goldberg, legal director of the left-leaning Alliance for Justice, called Rao's writings "deeply troubling," especially on sexual assault.

"They are vile, they are terrible and they have never disavowed those views," he said.

Shiwali Patel, senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center, called Rao a "rape apologist" and said her promotion to the D.C.-based appeals court, widely viewed as the nation's second-

most important court, would endanger women.

In a 1994 column, Rao wrote: "Unless someone made her drinks undetectably strong or forced them down her throat, a woman, like a man, decides when and how much to drink. And if she drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was a part of her choice."

A good way to avoid a potential rape "is to stay reasonably sober," Rao added.

She also said Yale was "dedicated itself to a relatively firm meritocracy, which drops its standards only for a few minorities, some legacies and a football player here or there."

And she said a decadeslong struggle for LGBT rights was part of "trendy political movements" that "have only recently added sexuality to the standard checklist of traits requiring tolerance."

Senate Republicans pushed back against Rao's critics, saying her college writings are not outside the mainstream. GOP staffers circulated a series of articles by female writers, including a 2013 column in the online magazine Slate by Emily Yoffe.

"Let's be totally clear: Perpetrators are the ones responsible for committing their crimes, and they should be brought to justice," Yoffe wrote. "But we are failing to let women know that when they render themselves defenseless, terrible things can be done to them. That's not blaming the victim; that's trying to prevent more victims."

Democrats also were expected to focus on Rao's comments indicating she would have voted to overturn the Affordable Care Act.

The American Bar Association said Monday it has deemed Rao "not qualified" for the appeals court.

## Justice Ginsburg makes 1st public appearance since cancer surgery

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made her first public appearance since undergoing lung cancer surgery, attending a concert in her honor given by her daughter-in-law and other musicians.

Ginsburg, 85, had surgery in New York on Dec. 21. She missed arguments at the court in January, her first illness-related absence in more than 25 years as a justice, and has been recuperating at her home in Washington.

On Monday night, Ginsburg attended a concert at a museum a few blocks from the White House. It was given by Patrice Michaels, who is married to Ginsburg's son, James. Michaels is a soprano and composer.

The concert was dedicated to Ginsburg's life in the law.

The justice sat in the back of the darkened auditorium at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The National Constitution Center, which sponsored the concert, did not permit photography.

The performance concluded with a song set to Ginsburg's answers to questions.

In introducing the last song, Michaels said, "bring our show to a close, but not the epic and notorious story of RBG."

Ginsburg had two previous bouts with cancer: She had colorectal cancer in 1999 and pancreatic cancer in 2009.

James Ginsburg said before the concert that his mother is walking a mile a day and meeting with her personal trainer twice a week.



J. SCOTT APPELWHITE/AP

**Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Monday made her first public appearance since undergoing lung cancer surgery in December.**

## SCIENCE

# 'We're not alone'

Harvard's top astronomer says an alien ship may be among us — and he doesn't care what his colleagues think

By Avi Selk

The Washington Post

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Before he started the whole alien spaceship thing last year, the chairman of Harvard University's astronomy department was known for public lectures on modesty. Personal modesty, which Avi Loeb said he learned growing up on a farm. And what Loeb calls "cosmic modesty" — the idea that it's arrogant to assume we are alone in the universe, or even a particularly special species.

You can find a poster for one of these lectures in Loeb's office today, though it's a bit lost among the clutter: photos of Loeb posing under the dome of Harvard's enormous 19th-century telescope; thank-you notes from elementary schoolchildren; a framed interview he gave the *New York Times* in 2014; his books on the formation of galaxies; his face, again and again — a bespectacled man in his mid-50s with a perpetually satisfied smile.

Loeb stands beside his desk on the first morning of spring courses in a creaseless suit, stapling syllabi for his afternoon class. He points visitors to this and that on the wall. He mentions that four TV crews were in this office on the day in the fall when his spaceship theory went viral, and now five film companies are interested in making a movie about his life.

A neatly handwritten page of equations sits on the desk, on the edge closest to the guest chairs.

"Oh, this is something I did last night," Loeb says. It's a calculation, he explains, supporting his theory that an extraterrestrial spacecraft, or at least a piece of one, may at this moment be flying past the orbit of Jupiter.

Since publishing his controversial paper, Loeb has run a nearly nonstop media circuit, embracing the celebrity that comes from being perhaps the most academically distinguished E.T. enthusiast of his time — the top Harvard astronomer who suspects technology from another solar system just showed up at our door. And this, in turn, has left some of his peers nonplused — grumbling at what they see as a filmish theory or bemoaning the fact that it could only have come from another star.

What you can't call Loeb is a crank. When astronomers in Hawaii stumbled across the first known interstellar object in late 2017 — a blip of light moving so fast that it could only have come from another star — Loeb had three decades of Ivy League professorship and hundreds of astronomical publications on his résumé mostly to do with the nature of black holes and early galaxies and other subjects far from any tabloid shelf.

So when seemingly every astronomer on the planet was trying



ADAM GLANZMAN/For The Washington Post

Avi Loeb poses in the observatory near his office in Cambridge, Mass. His theory about an alien spaceship has made the rounds in the media and caused controversy in the academic community.

to figure out how the interstellar object (dubbed 'Oumuamua, Hawaiian for "scout") got to our remote patch of Milky Way, Loeb's extraordinarily confident suggestion that it probably came from another civilization could not be easily dismissed.

"Considering an artificial origin, one possibility is that 'Oumuamua' — pronounced Oh-mooah-mooah — is a lightsail, floating in interstellar space as a debris from an advanced technological equipment," Loeb wrote with his colleague Shmuel Bialy in *Astrophysical Journal Letters* in November — thrilling E.T. enthusiasts and upsetting the fragile orbits of space academia.

"Oumuamua is not an alien spaceship, and the authors of the paper insult honest scientific inquiry to even suggest it," tweeted Paul Sutter, an astrophysicist at Ohio State University, shortly after the paper published.

"A shocking example of sensationalist, ill-motivated science," theoretical astrophysicist Ethan Siegel wrote in *Forbes*. North Carolina State University astrophysicist Katie Mack suggested Loeb was trolling for publicity. "Sometimes you write a paper about something that you don't believe to be true at all, just for the purpose of putting out there," she told the *Verge*.

Most scientists besides Loeb assume 'Oumuamua is some sort of rock, be it an asteroid ejected from some star in meltdown hundreds of millions of years ago, or an icy comet wandering the interstellar void. But it's moving too

fast for an inert rock, Loeb points out — zooming away from the sun as if something is pushing it from behind. And if it's a comet spewing jets of steam, the limited observations astronomers made of it showed no sign.

Loeb argues that 'Oumuamua's behavior means it can't be, as is commonly imagined, a clump of rock shaped like a long potato, but rather an object that's very long and no more than 1 millimeter thick, perhaps like a kilometer-long obloid pancake — or a ship sail — so light and thin that sunlight is pushing it out of our solar system.

And while he's not saying it's definitely aliens, he is saying he can't think of anything other than aliens that fits the data. And he's saying that all over international news.

**'I don't have a class system in my head of academia being the elite. I see it as a continuation of childhood curiosity — trying to understand what the world is like.'**

Avi Loeb

chairman of Harvard University's astronomy department

"Many people expected once there would be this publicity, I would back down," Loeb says. "If someone shows me evidence to the contrary, I will immediately back down."

In the meantime, he's doubling down, hosting a Reddit AMA on "how the discovery of alien life in space will transform our life," and constantly emailing his "friends and colleagues" with updates on all the reporters who are speaking to him.

In a matter of months, Loeb has become a one-man alternative to the dirge of terrestrial news.

"It changes your perception on reality, just knowing that we're not alone," he says. "We are fighting on borders, on resources. ... It would make us feel part of planet Earth as a civilization rather than individual countries voting on Brexit."

So now he is famous, styling himself as a truth-teller and risk-taker in an age of overly conservative, quiescent scientists.

"The mainstream approach [is] you can sort of drink your coffee in the morning and expect what you will find later on. It's a stable lifestyle, but for me it resembles more the lifestyle of a business person rather than scientists," he says.

"The worst thing that can happen to me is I would be relieved of my administrative duties, and that would give me even more time to focus on science," Loeb adds. "All the titles I have, I can dial them back. In fact, I can dial myself back to the farm."

Loeb grew up in an Israeli

farming village. He would sit in the hills and read philosophy books imagining the broader universe, he says, a fascination that led him into academia and all the way to 'Oumuamua.

"I don't have a class system in my head of academia being the elite," he says, as he leads a reporter into the locked chamber of the Great Refractor — an enormous 19th-century telescope where he sometimes does photo ops. "I see it as a continuation of childhood curiosity — trying to understand what the world is like."

He joined Princeton University's Institute for Advanced Study in the late 1980s ("Where Einstein used to be," he notes) and later took a junior position in Harvard's astronomy department, where "for 20 years no one had been promoted from within — They tenured me after three years."

As he tells it, his life story sounds like a cerebral version of "Forrest Gump" — Loeb always singlemindedly pursuing his science and intersecting with the giants of the field, whom he regularly name-drops. Stephen Hawking had dinner at his house. Stephen Spielberg once asked him for movie tips. Russian billionaire Uri Milner once walked into his office and sat on the couch and asked him to help design humanity's first interstellar spaceship, which he is now doing, with a research budget of \$100 million and the endorsement of Mark Zuckerberg and the late Hawking.

Loeb mentions casually that when he was 24 years old he got a private audience with the famed physicist Freeman Dyson — and then pauses for effect before the 20-foot shaft of the Great Refractor, grinning until he realizes the reporter doesn't know who Freeman Dyson is.

At midday, Loeb leaves the telescope and his office and descends to a bare white classroom to introduce the basics of astrophysics to a dozen new students.

If he's mastered the national news interview by now, his lecture begins a bit stilted. He looks down at the table as he speaks. He asks the freshmen at this most prestigious of universities to go behind the table and list their hobbies.

Ten minutes later, Loeb goes off script.

"Did anyone hear the name 'Oumuamua'?" he asks. "What did it mean?"

Almost everyone nods, and freshman Matt Jacobsen, who came to Harvard from an Iowa farm town, volunteers quietly: "There was speculation that it was from another civilization."

"Who made that speculation?" Loeb asks, smiling.

There's an awkward silence in the room, and then Jacobsen cries, "Was it you? Oh my gosh!" and the professor smiles wider.

## NATION

# 5 obstacles to autonomous vehicle use

By TOM KRISHER  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — In the world of autonomous vehicles, Pittsburgh and Silicon Valley are bustling hubs of development and testing. But ask those involved in self-driving vehicles when we might actually see them carrying passengers in every city, and you'll get an almost universal answer: Not anytime soon.

An optimistic assessment is 10 years. Many others say decades as researchers try to conquer a number of obstacles. The vehicles themselves will debut in limited, well-mapped areas within cities and spread outward.

The fatal crash in Arizona involving an Uber autonomous vehicle in March slowed progress, largely because it hurt the public's perception of the safety of the vehicles. Companies slowed research to be more careful.

Google's Waymo, for instance, decided not to launch a fully autonomous ride-hailing service in the Phoenix area and will rely on human backup drivers to ferry passengers, at least for now.

Here are the problems that researchers must overcome to start

giving rides without humans behind the wheel:

**1 Snow and weather**  
When it's heavy enough to cover the pavement, snow blocks the view of lane lines that vehicle cameras use to find their way. Researchers so far haven't figured out a way around this. That's why much of the testing is done in warm-weather climates such as Arizona and California.

Heavy snow, rain, fog and sandstorms can obstruct the view of cameras. Light beams sent out by laser sensors can bounce off snowflakes and think they are obstacles. Radar can see through the weather, but it doesn't show the shape of an object needed for computers to figure out what it is.

Researchers are working on laser sensors that use a different light beam wavelength to see through snowflakes, said Greg McGuire, director of the MCity autonomous vehicle testing lab at the University of Michigan. Software also is being developed so vehicles can differentiate between real obstacles and snowflakes, rain, fog, and other conditions.

But many companies are still

trying to master the difficult task of driving on a clear day with steady traction.

**2 Pavement lines and curbs**  
Around the globe, roadway marking lines are different, or they may not even exist. Lane lines aren't standardized, so vehicles have to learn how to drive differently in each city. Sometimes there aren't curbs to help vehicles judge lane width.

For instance, in Pittsburgh's industrial "Strip District," where many self-driving vehicles are tested, the city draws lines across the narrow lanes to mark where vehicles should stop for stop signs. Sometimes the lines are so far back and buildings are so close to the street that autonomous cars can't see traffic on the cross street if they stop at the line. One workaround is to program vehicles to stop for the line and creep forward.

**3 Human drivers**  
For many years, autonomous vehicles will have to deal with humans who don't always play by the rules. They double-park or walk in front of cars. Recently in Pittsburgh, an Argo backup driver had to take

over when his car stopped during a right turn, blocking an intersection it couldn't immediately decide whether to go around a double-parked delivery truck.

"Even if the car might eventually figure something out, it's shared space, and it's socially unacceptable" to block traffic, said Pete Rander, president of Argo AI, an autonomous vehicle company in which Ford has invested heavily.

Humans also make eye contact with other drivers to make sure they're looking in the right direction, something still being developed for autonomous vehicles.

Add to that the antagonism that some feel toward robots. People have reportedly been harassing Waymo's autonomous test vehicles near Phoenix.

The Arizona Republic reported in December that police is suburban Chandler have documented at least 21 cases in the past two years. One Jeep forced the Waymo vans off the road six times.

**4 Left turns**  
Deciding when to turn left in front of oncoming traffic without a green arrow is one of the more difficult

tasks for human drivers and one that causes many crashes.

Autonomous vehicles have the same trouble.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik said in a recent interview that his company's vehicles are still encountering occasional problems at intersections.

**5 Consumer acceptance**  
The fatal Uber crash near Phoenix last year did more than push the pause button on testing. It also rattled consumers who someday will be asked to ride in self-driving vehicles.

Surveys taken after the Uber crash showed that drivers are reluctant to give up control to a computer. One by AAA found that 73 percent of American drivers would be too fearful to ride in a fully self-driving vehicle. That's up from 63 percent in late 2017.

Autonomous vehicle companies are showing test passengers information on screens about where the vehicles are heading and what its sensors are seeing. The more people ride, the more they trust the vehicles, says Krafcik.

## Heavy-duty trucks updated, upgraded for 2019 model year

By TOM KRISHER  
Associated Press

DETROIT — Nicole Foster-Beck asks a lot of the heavy-duty pickup truck she uses on her 43-acre horse farm east of Dallas.

Aside from the daily hauling, her 2015 GMC Sierra has to be powerful enough to pull a heavy eight-horse trailer to competitions, yet cushy enough to keep people comfortable on trips as far away as Kentucky.

She's exactly the customer that all three Detroit automakers will be courting this year when they roll out new or substantially updated heavy-duty versions of their trucks.

It's the first time that all three are revamping their heavy-duty trucks at the same time in years, which almost certainly will touch off a battle of ads and specifications.

Pickups from the Detroit automakers were the three top-selling vehicles in the U.S. last year, totaling more than 2 million in sales.

Heavy-duty versions, with bigger frames, beds, interiors and engines, make up about 30 percent of that. They're for those who need to tow and haul big things.

Most buyers pull trailers with heavy items including boats, boats and recreational campers that can weigh around 10 tons.

Many are used to pull trailers laden with equipment to job sites.

"Capability is really important for these folks," said Sandor Pizzar, truck marketing manager for General Motors' Chevrolet brand. "They're often times towing something that's even more valuable than the truck itself. It enables what their lifestyle is."

There's a lot at stake for the automakers, who get most of their profits from trucks.

Around 90 percent of heavy-duty buyers spend thousands extra for powerful diesel engines, and many go for pricey luxury and safety features, paying as much as \$80,000 for a fully decked-out truck.

They also do their homework.

"Hauling a horse is not just like hauling around hay," said Foster-Beck, who trains show horses at Foster Farm 20 minutes from downtown Dallas. "Your ability to accelerate when you need to, your ability to brake gently. Those things really matter."

All three companies are offering games and other electronics to help with towing, backing and viewing surrounding traffic, features that also are important to heavy-duty buyers.

Fiat Chrysler's Ram brand started this year's contest, unveiling a new heavy-duty pickup in January.

The 2019 Ram, which goes on sale in April, has an optional 400-



David Zalubowski/AP

A long row of unsold 2019 pickup trucks sits at a Ram dealership in Littleton, Colo. For the first time in years, all three Detroit automakers are making major changes to heavy-duty versions of their trucks.

horsepower, 6.7-liter six-cylinder diesel with 1,000 pound-feet of torque. The company says it can pull more than 35,000 pounds and carry 7,680 pounds in its bed. Torque, a measure of rotational force, is a big deal for buyers because it's needed especially when pulling trailers up big hills.

General Motors' GMC brand was next with the heavy-duty Sierra.

Its 6.6-liter diesel has 445 horsepower and 910 pound feet of torque. Towing and payload

capacities haven't been released yet, but Phil Brook, GMC's vice president of marketing, says the truck can tow more than 30,000 pounds.

Ford is unveiling a new Super Duty version of the F-Series Tuesday and putting it on display at the Chicago auto show.

It didn't release power numbers either but said the new truck, due out in the fall, will offer the company's highest-ever towing and payload ratings. Ford also added a larger 7.3-liter V8 gasoline engine

to its lineup, joining a smaller V8 and a 6.7-liter diesel. The larger gasoline V8 gives people more towing ability at a cost lower than a diesel, said Todd Eckert, Ford's truck marketing manager.

Also Tuesday, Chevrolet will introduce its new Silverado heavy-duty truck, which is nearly the same as a Sierra but a little less posh. The Silverado comes out in the middle of the year and the Sierra in late summer.

Prices haven't been announced for any of the trucks.



## NATION

# 1st winter storm hits Northwest

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Winter weather pounded a swath of the U.S. West on Monday, closing schools, delaying flights and turning streets into sledding hills in coastal cities like Seattle that rarely get much snow.

Parts of California and Montana braced for the threat of mudslides and avalanches this week, while the Midwest warmed up from a dangerous blast of cold last week that is linked to at least 30 deaths in several states.

The Pacific Northwest's first major winter snowstorm hit western Washington hardest, closing numerous schools in Seattle and nearby cities, canceling ferry service and causing car crashes but no major injuries.

Some areas north and east of Seattle got 8 to 10 inches of snow. Temperatures were expected to be 15 degrees below normal this week, with lows in the teens, the National Weather Service said.

More than 200 flights at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport were canceled and over 450 delayed.

Chris Allahyar, of Edgewood, Wash., told Seattle news station KOMO-TV that he was trying to make a flight but his car got stuck on an icy road.

"Everything was fine until I got off the freeway and everything turned to ice. Couldn't even make it off the road. I'm just stuck right now," Allahyar said. "I really underestimated the temperature."

Communities on the northern Oregon coast got several inches of unusual snow, and it was falling steadily in Portland. A cold spell in Portland was expected to last for about 10 days, with overnight temperatures dipping well below freezing and more snow later in the week.

The storm system lingering over the North-



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Children sled down one of Seattle's steeper ice-covered hills Monday.

west has sent waves of snow into the Northern Rocky Mountains, where it mixed with a blast of frigid arctic air and gusting winds to create hazardous driving conditions and dangerous wind chills 40 degrees below zero and lower.

The cold closed or delayed schools. Much of western and northern Montana will likely see subzero temperatures until at least Wednesday, weather service meteorologist Cody Moldan said.

"We're kind of stuck in a cold pattern," Moldan said.

The weather was warmer near Yellowstone National Park, but the fresh snow that fell on the weak snowpack in the mountains

near the park led to avalanche warnings.

Snow and rain throughout California has threatened flash flooding where massive wildfires roared through communities last year and where dangerous driving conditions have been seen in the latest of a series of storms over the past few days.

Officials lifted flash flood warnings Monday but warned that another storm Tuesday could

bring the danger of mudslides and flooding in the Malibu area, where a wildfire destroyed homes and burned hillsides bare, and south-east of Los Angeles, where an August blaze scorched a huge area in the Cleveland National Forest.

The weather service issued a winter storm warning for the mountains in Los Angeles and Ventura counties through Wednesday, with more than a foot of snow expected at higher elevations.

A storm that swept across California and Nevada dumped as much as 3 feet of snow over the weekend, with much more expected.

In parts of California's Sierra Nevada, officials issued blizzard and avalanche warnings through Monday night, warning that cold conditions in the northern mountain range could become life-threatening as a series of intense storms and powerful winds brought whitout conditions that closed some mountain roads.

Meanwhile, electric-powered commuter trains in the Chicago area were getting back to normal with temperatures in the 40s. The arctic cold played havoc with overhead power lines and forced the shutdown of two major train lines.

But cold weather again moved into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where an ice storm created hazardous travel conditions and led schools and businesses to close.

## Calif. seeks to limit surgery on genitalia of children

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Under a bill unveiled Monday, California doctors would be barred from treating or performing surgery on children born with genitalia that don't fit a single gender or are otherwise atypical unless it's medically necessary or the child consents.

It's the latest effort by state legislators to give minors more control over their bodies and gender identities.

"The fundamental premise of the legislation is that people should make decisions about their own bodies," said Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener, of San Francisco, the bill's sponsor. "In California, we strongly believe that people are who they are and that we shouldn't be telling people who they are supposed to be."

Doctors, though, said the bill may go too far in restricting how they can treat patients. The California Medical Association hasn't taken a formal position on the bill but has "very serious concerns" that include the bill's lack of a definition about when a minor is old enough to consent.

"Our concern is that the approach in this bill may be being over-prescriptive and not give families and medical professionals the ability to take the specifics of each case into account," Janus Norman, senior vice president for governmental relations, said in a statement.

The bill focuses on intersex minors, defined as someone who is born with atypical physical sex characteristics, which could include genitalia or internal organs that don't conform to a single gender.

InterACT, a nonprofit working to expand rights for intersex youth, estimates just less than 2 percent of the U.S. population has some type of intersex characteristic. That includes a broad range of characteristics ranging from an enlarged clitoris or a misplaced urethra opening on the penis to genitalia that don't clearly match one gender.

About one in 2,000 babies are estimated to have visible genital differences putting them at risk of early surgery, said Kimberly Zieselman, the group's executive director. Unnecessary surgeries could misidentify a child's preferred gender or, in cases unrelated to gender, leave scarring or affect future fertility, she said.

"It's not just a gender issue," Zieselman said. "There are a lot of other harms that happen to intersex people as a result of the interventions that are psychological and physical."

Under Wiener's bill, doctors and parents wouldn't be allowed to move ahead with treatment or surgery unless it is medically necessary, such as something that would prevent a child from urinating.

## Fate of drug lord 'El Chapo' now rests with jury

By TOM HAYS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After nearly three months of testimony about a vast drug-smuggling conspiracy steeped in violence, a jury began deliberations Monday at the U.S. trial of the infamous Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

The day ended without jurors reaching a verdict for Guzman, who faces life in prison if convicted. They resumed deliberations Tuesday morning.

The jury has heard months of testimony about Guzman's rise to power as the head of the Sinaloa cartel. Prosecutors say he is responsible for smuggling at least 200 tons of cocaine into the United States and for a wave of killings in turf wars with other cartels.

Guzman, 41, is notorious for escaping from prison twice in Mexico. In closing arguments, prosecutor Andrea Goldberg said he was plotting yet another breakout when was he sent in 2017 to the U.S., where he has been in solitary confinement ever since.

The defendant wanted to escape "because he's guilty and he never wanted to be in a position where he would have to answer for his crimes," Goldberg told the jury. "He wanted



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS/AP

This courtroom sketch shows Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, right, seated at the defense table with his interpreter Monday in New York.

to avoid sitting right there in front of you."

The defense claims Guzman's role has been exaggerated by cooperating witnesses who are seeking leniency in their own cases. In his closing, defense attorney Jeffrey Lichtman assailed the case as a "fantasy" and urged the

jury not to believe cooperators who "lie, steal, cheat, deal drugs and kill people" for a living.

Last week, newly unsealed court papers revealed disturbing allegations not heard by the jury — that Guzman had sex with girls as young as 13. A Colombian drug trafficker told investigators that the kingpin paid \$5,000 to have the girls brought to him, and that he sometimes drugged them, the papers say.

The start of the proceedings Monday was briefly delayed after two jurors indicated to the judge they were aware of reports about the alleged sex crimes. He questioned both behind closed doors before allowing them to remain on the jury.

The unsealing of the documents came at the request of The New York Times and Vice News. U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan had ordered prosecutors to review the material — originally sealed because it was deemed unrelated to the drug charges — and make portions of it public within four days of the government resting its case against Guzman.

Guzman's attorneys said their client denies the allegations.

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, on a visit to New York City, stopped by the courtroom, with the jury not present, to thank the government's trial team.

## WORLD

# Pope celebrates historic Mass in Arabian Peninsula

BY NICOLE WINFIELD  
AND AYA BATRAWY  
Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Pope Francis ministered on Tuesday to the thriving Catholic community in the United Arab Emirates as he concluded his historic visit to the Arabian Peninsula with the first-ever papal Mass here and a call for his flock to remain meek in following God.

A day after making a broad appeal for Christian and Muslim leaders to work together to promote peace and reject war, Francis celebrated what some considered the largest show of public Christian worship on the peninsula, the birthplace of Islam.

For the Gulf Arab region where public displays of non-Islamic faith are restricted, the hymns of "Hallelujah" booming out from speakers marked a milestone and evidence of the Emirates' much touted assertions of its tolerance

for other faiths.

Cheers erupted inside and outside the Zayed Sports City Stadium as Francis arrived and looped through the crowd in his open-sided popemobile, as chants of "Viva il Papa" and "We love you!" echoed from the crowd. Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti later said some 180,000 people attended the Mass, including 135,000 tickets given out for stadium seats and the throngs who crowded around it to catch a glimpse of the pope.

Organizers said faithful from 100 countries would attend, as well as 4,000 Muslims from this Muslim federation — evidence of the enormous diversity among the 9 million people who live in the UAE.

The Emirates' Catholic community is something an anomaly for the region — large, diverse and thriving at a time when the wider Mideast has seen an exodus of Christians fleeing persecution at the hands of Islamic State and others.



ANDREW MEDICINI/AP

People wave Vatican flags as they wait for the arrival of Pope Francis at the Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. Francis' visit represents the first papal trip to the Arabian Peninsula.

The Catholic Church estimates as many as 1 million of the over 9 million living in the UAE are Catholic, nearly all of them foreigners drawn to the oil-rich federation to work in everything from white-collar finance to construction. Most are Filipino and Indian, many of whom have left behind families back home in order to come here and work. They can face precarious labor conditions, which human rights groups regularly denounce.

In his homily, delivered in Italian and translated into Arabic

with English subtitles on giant screens, Francis made a direct reference to the sufferings many endure.

"It is most certainly not easy for you to live far from home, missing the affection of your loved ones, and perhaps also feeling uncertainty about the future," he said. "But the Lord is faithful and does not abandon his people."

The Mass concluded around noon and the pope departed about an hour later on a chartered Etihad flight to return to Vatican City.

Francis' visit, 800 years after his peace-loving namesake St. Francis of Assisi visited an Egyptian sultan, marked the culmination of years of Holy See efforts to improve relations with the Muslim world after they hit a low during the papacy of Pope Benedict XVI. Since then, religious fanaticism and faith-inspired wars have only grown around the globe, inspiring the pontiff's efforts to promote tolerance and understanding.

## Study: Third of Himalayan glaciers can no longer be saved

BY BINAJ GURUBACHARYA  
Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — One-third of Himalayan glaciers will melt by the end of the century due to climate change, threatening water sources for 1.9 billion people, even if current efforts to reduce climate change succeed, an assessment warns.

If global efforts to curb climate change fail, the impact could be far worse: a loss of two-thirds of the region's glaciers by 2100, said the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment released Monday by the

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

"Global warming is on track to transform the frigid, glacier-covered mountain peaks of the Hindu Kush Himalayas cutting across eight countries to bare rocks in a little less than a century," said Philipus Wester of the center, who led the report.

The five-year study looked at the effects of climate change on a region that cuts across Asia through Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The area,

which includes the world's tallest mountain peaks, has glaciers that feed into river systems including the Indus, Ganges, Yangtze, Irrawaddy and Mekong.

The assessment said that the impact of the melting could range from flooding from the increased runoff to increased air pollution from black carbon and dust deposited on the glaciers.

Saleem Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, an environmental research center in Dhaka, described the findings of

the report as "very alarming," especially for downstream nations such as Bangladesh.

"All the countries affected need to prioritize tackling this upcoming problem before it reaches crisis proportions," he said in an email. Huq was one of the study's external reviewers.

The study said that even if the most ambitious Paris climate accord goal of limiting global warming to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century were met, more than a third of the region's glaciers will be lost. If the global

rise in temperature were 3.6 F, two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers will melt, it said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement was a landmark moment in international diplomacy, bringing together governments with vastly different views to tackle global warming.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development said the study included work by more than 350 researchers and policy experts from 22 countries. It said it had 210 authors and 125 external reviewers.



PARIS FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP

In this image from video released by the Paris Fire Department, firefighters scale the top floors of a burning apartment building Tuesday. The fire, suspected to be arson, killed 10 people.

## 10 die in Paris fire; arson suspected

Associated Press

PARIS — Paris' deadliest fire in over a decade claimed 10 lives Tuesday, sending fleeing residents to the roof as flames engulfed their apartment building before dawn.

A 40-year-old female resident of the building, said to have a history of psychiatric problems, was arrested as police opened an investigation into voluntary arson resulting in death. French officials said she was drunk when she was apprehended on the street near the eight-story building in the quiet neighborhood.

It is the deadliest fire in Paris since the April 2005 hotel fire near the capital's famed Opera that killed 24 people.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner was on the scene Tuesday morning, as plumes of smoke spoke-

led the sky.

"I want to salute the huge mobilization of the Paris firefighters," he said. "More than 250 people arrived immediately and, throughout the night, saved over 50 people in truly exceptional conditions."

Firefighters rescued some people from the roof as well as others who had clambered out of windows to escape the flames.

Castaner told reporters at the scene that authorities suspect the blaze was criminal in nature and that the detained female resident had "a history of psychiatric problems."

A judicial official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as an investigation was ongoing, told AP that the suspect was drunk at the moment of her pre-dawn arrest. She is currently in police custody.

Among the injured were at least eight firefighters, according to the Paris firefighters.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Real pic in fake profile leads to man's arrest

**KS HUTCHINSON** — Authorities said a Hutchinson man was arrested on suspicion of using counterfeit bills to purchase electronics because the fake Facebook profile he's accused of using to arrange the transactions included a real picture.

The Hutchinson News reported that the man was arrested last week and booked into jail on suspicion of counterfeiting, theft and drug charges. Police said that last month, he used a counterfeit \$100 bill to purchase a computer and five fake \$20 bills to buy an iPhone 6.

Minutes after the photo from the suspect's fake Facebook profile was posted online, a parole officer called to say the man was a client.

## Officials launch annual ice-out contest on lake

**VT NEWPORT** — Vermont officials launched their annual contest to guess how long the ice will last on Lake Memphremagog.

The Caledonian Record reported that for its "Ice Out" contest, Newport Parks and Recreation put a large drawing of a bottle of vanilla extract on a platform attached to a clock. It will record when the facade, called "Vanilla Ice," drops into the water.

The person who predicts the closest time will win 50 percent of the contest pool, which usually totals around \$500.

The rest of the proceeds will benefit the Gardner Memorial Park Playground and Splashpad project.

The deadline to submit guesses for this year is April 1.

## Fight in Walmart grows to a shooting outside

**AL ADAMSVILLE** — Police said a fight inside a Walmart in Alabama escalated into gunfire outside the store.

Adamsville police Chief Warren Cotton told AL.com that two men were arrested in the fight Saturday night. He said no one was injured after the altercation was taken to the parking lot and at least one gunshot was fired.

Cotton said a police lieutenant shopping when the fight and shooting happened was able to help apprehend the men quickly.

## Boy, 4, suspended for school year for gun

**NC MOUNT GILEAD** — A 4-year-old boy who authorities in North Carolina said showed off a loaded gun to his prekindergarten classmates was suspended for the rest of the school year.

News outlets cited a Mount Gilead police statement, saying a teacher confiscated a book bag holding the 9 mm Smith & Wesson handgun Jan. 31. Officers responding to Mount Gilead Elementary School found it contained a fully loaded magazine.

The weapon was turned over to



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS (Ga.) BANNER-HERALD/AP

## The force is with her

Addison Callahan represents her team, Star Wars v3, at the LL State Robotics Competition First Lego League at Athens Academy in Athens, Ga., on Saturday.

the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Reports indicated the boy's mother would be charged.

## LA man arrested during post-Super Bowl revelry

**MA BOSTON** — Boston police said they arrested one person during post-game celebrations after the New England Patriots 13-3 Super Bowl victory over the Los Angeles Rams.

Police said Vincent Bredice, 21, of Los Angeles, was charged after scaling a tree on Boston Common at 11:30 p.m. Sunday with an alcoholic beverage, kicking off

several branches, refusing orders to climb down and making an obscene gesture at officers.

He was charged with malicious destruction of property, disturbing the peace and drinking in public.

## Student athletes escape bus before explosion

**NC WILSON** — Dozens of athletes from a Virginia college were able to evacuate a charter bus before it exploded in North Carolina.

News outlets cited a statement from Wilson County Emergency Management that said 41 track-and-field athletes from Hampton

University were traveling home Saturday night from a meet at the University of South Carolina when the bus went up in flames.

The release said the bus driver "did an excellent job" evacuating the students before the bus exploded.

The students were taken to a high school, where they waited for a different bus.

## Stun gun used on man sets clothes on fire

**PA PHILADELPHIA** — Authorities said a man's clothes burst into flames on a Philadelphia street after a security guard stunned him with

## THE CENSUS



**11** The number of protected turtles a Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty to trafficking. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said David Sommers on Monday admitted to sending a package to Canada in 2014 containing 11 diamondback terrapin hatchlings. He faces up to five years in prison at his May 15 sentencing.

a stun-gun-style device.

The incident that occurred early Saturday outside Jim's Steaks was captured on video. It shows the man appearing to grapple with one security guard, then falling after a second guard fires the device at him. The flames appear to extinguish by themselves after several seconds, and it's not known if the man was injured.

It wasn't clear what sparked the incident or if the guards were employed by the restaurant.

## Sun returns to country's northernmost town

**AK UTQIAGVIK** — Sunshine has returned to the country's northernmost town in Alaska following about two months of the sun staying hidden below the horizon.

Alaska's Energy Desk reported the first sunrise of the year for Utqiagvik marks the point when winter starts turning toward spring.

The Chukchi Sea community formerly known as Barrow is gaining minutes of sunlight each day.

The town will hit the other extreme by May, with 24 hours of daylight that lasts until August.

## Mystery noise caused by plant maintenance

**RI JOHNSTON** — Police solved the mystery of a strange, loud noise that baffled residents of two Rhode Island towns over the weekend.

WJAR-TV reported that Cranston and Johnston residents were awakened at about 5:40 a.m. Saturday by a sustained noise that shook their homes. It sounded like a roar of wind and was described as a passing plane, wind turbines, a steam release or even aliens.

It lasted about three minutes, paused for a few seconds, then continued for three more minutes.

Cranston police Maj. Todd Patalano said Sunday that the roaring came from a Johnston power plant. He said the plant's manager confirmed that during maintenance, there was an electrical issue that generated loud roars and booms.

From wire reports



## FACES

## TCA UPFRONTS

## Back to TV

4-time Academy Award nominee Williams to costar in new FX series

By LYNN ELBER  
AND BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

Michelle Williams is returning to television for the first time in 16 years. She's playing dancer and actress Gwen Verdon, whose career aspirations were suppressed by her marriage to choreographer-director Bob Fosse. Oscar winner Sam Rockwell plays Fosse in the eight-episode FX series "Fosse/Verdon," debuting April 9.

Williams' last TV work was the hit series "Dawson's Creek" that ended in 2003.

She sees parallels with Verdon, who was a working mother like Williams.

Williams pointed out a long gap in Verdon's career while she stayed home to raise Nicole, her daughter with Fosse. Nicole Fosse is a creative consultant on the series.

Williams said Monday at the Television Critics Association winter meeting in Pasadena, Calif., that such gaps are something all working mothers struggle with and called it "a very complicated dilemma."



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

Actress Michelle Williams will play dancer and actress Gwen Verdon, who married choreographer-director Bob Fosse, in the eight-episode series "Fosse/Verdon."

## FX vs. Netflix

Someone is standing up to television's Goliath, with a prominent competitor saying Monday that Netflix is deceiving the public about what is a hit and what isn't.

John Landgraf, the FX Networks chief executive who has frequently pointed out the glut of scripted TV, said Netflix is using cloudy measurements to claim increasing dominance among viewers.

Netflix's claim that 40 million households globally watched the series "You" is suspect, Landgraf said, contending the U.S. figure would be 8 million viewers if the industry's average-viewership standard was applied.

## Other TCA news

■ Donald Glover's comedy "Atlanta" is behind schedule. The show was renewed for a third season in June and was supposed to return this year. Network spokesman John Solberg said that the show won't be back in time for Emmy Awards consideration this year.

■ Noah Hawley, creator of FX's "Legion," said the series will end after eight more episodes. Hawley said the drama had arrived at a "natural place" to conclude the story of David Haller, the Marvel Comics character played by Dan Stevens. Landgraf said Hawley had devised "Legion" as a three-season story. It is set to return in June.

## Rapper's English origins surprise fans

By ANDREW DALTON  
Associated Press

It was a shock for fans when 21 Savage was taken into custody by U.S. immigration agents in Georgia. It was an even bigger shock to learn he had been an immigrant in the first place.

The Grammy-nominated rapper and his music are so deeply associated with Atlanta that the notion he was actually born in England and brought to the U.S. at age 12 felt downright bizarre.

Scores of surprised tweets came after his Sunday arrest. Memes bloomed that some called cruel under the circumstances, including one of him dressed as a Buckingham Palace guard, along with an old video of him talking in a mock English accent about tea and crumpets.

"It seems so outlandish that the prototypical Atlanta rapper is not from Atlanta," said Samuel Hines, a writer and editor at QO who researched 21 Savage and spent a day with him for a profile in the magazine last year. "I think that's why so many people love sort of making fun of him, and making memes."

By all accounts, few knew his real birthplace, and it certainly wasn't publicly known. His accent gave no indication, and his birth name, Sha Yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, could come from any number of birthplaces.

"I certainly heard no whispers challenging his

accepted backstory," Hine said.

Abraham-Joseph was detained in a targeted operation in the Atlanta area and put in deportation proceedings, U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox said.

Abraham-Joseph's attorneys said U.S. immigration officials have known his status at least since 2017, when he applied for a new visa. That application is pending, and his attorneys say he should not be detained.

Abraham-Joseph spent his teenage years in Atlanta, and his image and later his music became defined by the city's distinctive hip-hop culture. Even the "21" in his name is a reference to the block where he lived there.

A pair of mixtapes in 2015 made his star rise quickly in the Atlanta underground. Collaborations with Atlanta artists including Metro Boomin and Offset of rap group Migos raised his profile.

He's since signed with Epic Records and made two high-charting solo albums.

For many close to 21 Savage, surprise about his arrest quickly gave way to outrage.

Offset tweeted that he was "PRAYING FOR MY DAWG. ALL THE MEMES ... AINT FUNNY HIS FAMILY DEPENDING ON HIM."

# 'I'm not racist': Neeson revisits recent controversial comments

From wire reports

Liam Neeson appeared on "Good Morning America" Tuesday, where he addressed his recent statement that he once roamed the streets in pursuit of a black person to kill after someone close to him disclosed she had been raped by an unidentified black person.

"I went up and down areas with a cosh, hoping I'd be approached by somebody — I'm ashamed to say that — and I did it maybe for a week, hoping some 'black bastard' would come out of a pub and have a go at me about something, you know?" Neeson told the Independent in an article published Monday. "So that I could ... kill him." ("Cosh" is a British slang term for a bludgeon.)

Neeson expounded on this story to anchor Robin Roberts during an appearance Tuesday on "Good Morning America," a stop on his press tour for his latest film, "Cold Pursuit." "After that there were some nights I went out deliberately into black areas in the city looking to be set upon so that I could unleash physical violence," he said. "And I did it for, I'd say, maybe four or five times until I caught myself on, and it really shocked me, this primal urge I had. It shocked me, and it hurt me. I did seek help."

"I'm not racist," Neeson continued. "This was nearly 40 years ago ... I had never felt this feeling before, which was a primal urge to lash out."

The actor added that he believes he would have gone through with his plan if the opportunity arose, but that he would have reacted the same way if the rapist had been white because "I did want to lash out, yes, because my friend was brutally raped and I thought I was defending her honor."

"If she had said an Irish, or a Scot, or a Brit, or a Lithuanian, I know I would've felt the same effect. I was trying to ... stand up for my dear friend in this terrible medieval fashion," he said.

Neeson said he thinks people can unconsciously harbor racist thoughts.

"We all pretend we're kind of politically correct. I mean, in this country, it's the same in my own country, too. You sometimes just scratch the surface and you discover all this racism and bigotry, and it's there," said the actor, who is from Northern Ireland.

"Cold Pursuit" is the newest film in which Neeson plays a man seeking revenge, a character trope that has become almost synonymous with the "Taken" actor's name.

## Ariana Grande sued over video image

A Las Vegas artist is suing pop music star Ariana Grande, alleging federal copyright infringement over an image of a woman in a candle flame in the pop star's "God is a Woman" music video.

Representatives for Grande did not immediately respond Monday to messages about the lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Nevada by attorneys for Vladimir Kusch and his company Kusch Fine Arts Las Vegas.

The lawsuit calls the image that appears a little more than a minute into Grande's 2018 music video nearly identical to paintings that Kusch painted and copyrighted in 1999 and 2000.

Kusch seeks monetary damages and a court order to remove the video from the internet.

## Ehrenreich faces online backlash over tweets

An online takedown of Marie Kondo by author-journalist Barbara Ehrenreich has been widely condemned as racist and xenophobic. Ehrenreich says it was a joke gone wrong.

Ehrenreich tweeted Monday that she was expounded on this story to anchor Robin Roberts during an appearance Tuesday on "Good Morning America," a stop on his press tour for his latest film, "Cold Pursuit." "After that there were some nights I went out deliberately into black areas in the city looking to be set upon so that I could unleash physical violence," he said. "And I did it for, I'd say, maybe four or five times until I caught myself on, and it really shocked me, this primal urge I had. It shocked me, and it hurt me. I did seek help."

Ehrenreich is a prominent liberal who writes often about the working class, notably in the best-selling "Nickel and Dimed."

## Other news

■ Tina Fey, Whoopi Goldberg and Brie Larson will be presenters at the 91st Academy Awards on Feb. 24. The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on Monday announced its first slate of presenters. Also among the 13 stars are Daniel Craig, Jennifer Lopez, Amandla Stenberg, and Awkwafina. Chris Evans, Amy Poehler, Maysa Rudolph, Charlize Theron, Tessa Thompson and Constance Wu will also present.

■ Grammy-winning singer Kelly Rowland will host the 12th annual Essence Black Women in Hollywood Awards on Feb. 21.

■ AARP's "Movies for Grown-ups" awards show on Monday honored Shirley MacLaine for career achievement. "Green Book" was named best picture, best movie for grown-ups, Glenn Close earned best actress for "The Wife" and Viggo Mortensen best actor for "Green Book."

■ An upcoming audio-only book will feature an author's memories of his complicated friendship with fellow author Philip Roth. James Atlas' "Remembering Roth" comes out March 1, the audio publisher Audible announced Tuesday.

■ "Watch What Happens Live" host Andy Cohen is a dad. The 35-year-old posted on Instagram that Benjamin Allen Cohen was born Monday. Cohen says he's "eternally grateful to an incredible surrogate."

■ C.Y. Lee, whose bestselling novel "The Flower Drum Song" became the basis for a stage musical and Oscar-nominated film despite concerns about stereotypes, has died. She was 102.



21 Savage

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Corn syrup in beer used for fermenting, not sweetening

By CANDICE CHOI  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bud Light is touting that it doesn't use corn syrup, but that doesn't make it nutritionally much different from its competitors.

The best-selling beer in the U.S. ran a medieval-themed Super Bowl ad on Sunday night that mocked rivals Miller Lite and Coors Light for using the sweetener. Social media chatter over the ad got a boost when the National Corn Growers Association expressed its disapproval in a tweet.

Sweeteners and starches can be used in the fermenting process to make beers, even if little remains in the end product. In fact, 12-ounce cans of Bud Light and Miller Lite list zero grams of sugar, while

Coors Light lists 1 gram. Each has around 100 calories, with carbs ranging from about 3 to 7 grams.

**'You could use doughnuts if you wanted,'**

**Harry Schuhmacher**

Beer Business Daily  
starch or sweetener is used?

Harry Schuhmacher, editor of Beer Business Daily, said the fermenting aids used to make lighter beers might result in slight differences in taste, but they generally serve the same purpose.

"You could use doughnuts if you wanted," he said.

Garrett Oliver, brewmaster for Brooklyn Brewery, said corn and rice are used in fermenting to lighten the overall character and flavor of beers, but he agreed that there was not much difference in the ingredients used for that purpose. He said the Bud Light ad seems to play into the unhealthy image of high-fructose corn syrup.

Corn syrup isn't exactly the same as table sugar or the high-fructose corn syrup used in many packaged foods, but that distinction is beside the point, because there's very little sugar content remaining in any light beer, said Bonnie Liebman of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.



ANHEUSER-BUSCH/AP

This undated image provided by Anheuser-Busch shows a scene from the company's Bud Light 2019 Super Bowl NFL football spot.

"The real problem is that many people don't think about the calories in alcoholic beverages," she said.

So why might rice be a superior ingredient than corn syrup for making beer? A Bud Light representative said in a statement that different recipes create different flavors, and that rice provides a "clean, crisp taste."

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 6)	\$1.1726
Dollar buys (Feb. 6)	€0.8528
British pound (Feb. 6)	\$1.33
Japanese yen (Feb. 6)	¥106.20
South Korean won (Feb. 6)	₩1,090.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2963
Canada (Dollar)	1.3134
China (Yuan)	6.7449
Denmark (Krone)	6.5393
Egypt (Pound)	17.6403
Euro	\$1.1416/0.8760
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.7465
Hungary (Forint)	278.13
Israel (Shekel)	3.6111
Japan (Yen)	109.90
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3034
Norway (Krone)	6.4675
Philippines (Peso)	52.29
Poland (Zloty)	3.76
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3516
South Korea (Won)	1,117.81
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0000
Taiwan (Dollar)	31.25
Turkey (Lira)	2.0006

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (e.g., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## MARKET WATCH

Feb. 4, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	175.48
	25,239.37
Nasdaq composite	83.67
	7,347.54
Standard & Poor's 500	18.34
	2,724.87
Russell 2000	15.48
	1,517.54

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.40
3-month bill	2.38
30-year bond	3.06

# NJ is 4th state to approve \$15 minimum wage

Associated Press

ELIZABETH, N.J. — New Jersey became the latest state on Monday to boost its hourly minimum wage to \$15 after Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law a measure phasing in the higher rate over five years.

Murphy signed the bill alongside Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver and Democratic legislative leaders at a raucous event in Elizabeth where advocates cheered, "Ready for 15," carried banners with their union affiliation and applauded loudly once the bill was signed.

"It is a great day to make some history for New Jersey's work-

ing families," Murphy said. "And that's just what we're going to do. We've talked long enough about putting New Jersey on a responsible path to \$15 an hour minimum wage. Today we start our way on this path."

New Jersey joins California, Massachusetts, New York and the District of Columbia in phasing in the higher rate. The \$15 wage is a prominent policy goal of left-leaning groups, as well as the fulfillment of a key campaign promise by Murphy.

The governor, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin

announced a deal on the higher wage last month following yearslong efforts by left-leaning groups and unions in the state to raise the wage.

The bill raises the current \$8.85 minimum wage to \$10 an hour in July, and then increases the rate by \$1 in subsequent years until it reaches \$15 in 2024 — but not for all workers.

Farm workers' wages will climb to \$12.50 over five years, for example. Workers for small businesses and seasonal employees will only see their minimum wage reach \$15 an hour in 2026. Tipped workers, who currently

have a minimum hourly wage of \$2.13, will see it climb to \$5.13 an hour by 2024.

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Attorneys

178

Transportation

944

**Court & Carpenter**  
MILITARY DEFENSE LAWYERS

**THE LOCAL CIVILIAN  
MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**

Sauerwiesen 2, Kaiserslautern-  
Siegelbach, Germany 67661

**(833) 446-UCMJ (x8265)**  
www.militarylawfirm.com

Dental

902

## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

**For Further Information Please Contact**

<b>GERMANY</b> Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	<b>U.S.A.</b> +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
--	---	--

*For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations*

**Trans Global**  
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

**AMERICAN  
DOCTORS  
& STAFF**  
*Creating Healthy Smiles*

- Certified Orthodontics
- American Dental Hygienists
- Family Dentistry

Ramstein Dental Care  
06371 406 230  
Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein  
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care  
06119 887 26 50  
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden  
Wiesbadendental.com

TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

**WSA**  
WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (872-7447)  
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de  
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

**Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!**

Concerts, events, TV,  
movies, music, video games,  
celebrity antics...

*Get entertained with...*

**STARS AND STRIPES**

**Are you in the picture?**

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a  
better handle on issues that affect you most.  
*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
*In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad*

## Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

**STARS AND STRIPES**

Mobile • Online • Print



## STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Klinek, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stars.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stars.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stars.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stars.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stars.com

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
Erik David, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erik@stars.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350  
**Pacific**  
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stars.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380  
**Washington**  
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stars.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stars.com

## CIRCULATION

**Mideast**  
Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.l.reismann.na@gmail.com  
na@stars.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

**Europe**  
Mikaela Jones, Europe Circulation Manager  
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111  
**Pacific**  
Mikaela, customerhelp@stars.com  
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171

## CONTACT US

**Washington**  
Tel: +1(202) 886.0005  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

**Reader letters**  
letters@stars.com

**Additional contacts**  
stars.com/contactus

## OMBUSMAN

Tobias Naegele

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at naegeto.tobias@stars.com, or by phone at 202-886-0005.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002, Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2019

stars.com

## OPINION

## Don't cut and run from Afghanistan

By MIHIR SHARMA  
Bloomberg Opinion

Afghanistan's future has never looked more uncertain—and, as so tediously often in the past, it is largely the fault of the U.S. In a hotel room in Moscow, representatives of the Taliban are meeting members of the Afghan opposition, in negotiations deliberately designed to exclude members of the government in Kabul led by President Ashraf Ghani. In the 38-member Afghan delegation are not just mercurial former President Hamid Karzai but also Mohammad Hanif Atmar, who will challenge Ghani for power in presidential elections in July.

U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who held talks with his own with the Taliban in Qatar recently, won't be there; this is Russia's show. But, it was Khalilzad's declaration that the U.S. and the Taliban had agreed "in 17-year war on a couple of very important issues" that launched this latest round of politicking. It's a chilling thought that some politicians in Kabul might, for the sake of power, be willing to cut a deal with the Taliban that they know is flawed.

The problem isn't that the U.S. seeks to end its 17-year war in Afghanistan. The problem is that it seeks to end the fighting purely on its own terms. The U.S. wants to ensure that the Taliban never again shelters al-Qaida, as it did in the 1990s, and that it continues to prosecute its internecine war against the local Islamic State offshoot. If that commitment can be enforced, the optimists hope, then the U.S. could withdraw.

draw his 14,000 troops and declare a tragic chapter closed. The editorial board of The New York Times merely echoed prevailing opinion by calling for a withdrawal "before the year is out and more lives are lost to a lost cause."

This would be an appalling abdication of responsibility. For reasons both practical and moral, the U.S. cannot abandon Afghanistan in this manner.

First, the practical reason: The Taliban—and their patrons in the Pakistan army—simply cannot be trusted to keep their side of the agreement. As it happens, the Taliban offered similarly firm assurances to the Clinton administration in the 1990s—and we know how that turned out. The Taliban may never again incubate al-Qaida and may fight ISIS. But, can we know that for the next threat might take hold? Could anyone in 1989, as the U.S. led the first time, predict al-Qaida? Who in 2001, as the U.S. returned, foresaw the rise of ISIS?

We also know what happens to a country abandoned by the U.S. It turns anti-American with a vengeance, feeling it has been used, abused and discarded. This is what happened to the Taliban after the U.S. pulled out after they ceased to be useful as Cold War proxies against the Soviet Union. If the U.S. departs Afghanistan abruptly, it will leave behind a country divided about everything except how much it despises America.

Then there's the moral argument. And that is that there's a "lost cause" in Afghanistan. From the ashes of a conflict that has, in its various iterations, lasted longer

than I have been alive, some in Afghanistan have struggled over the past decade to build a decent society. The government in Kabul is far from perfect. But, the Afghan state looks exactly like what it is: the first and very young, attempt by a long-brutalized country to develop institutions that work for all its citizens. This is the very opposite of a "lost cause" and it requires colossal self-obsession on the part of the U.S. to call it so.

Perhaps we should listen to Afghanistan's women, given that the 38 men at that Moscow hotel—or the men in the Qatar talks—may not.

"Peace" talks that are founded on the assumption that America's purpose in Afghanistan is solely to pressure existing terrorist groups don't deserve the name. The Taliban Women's Network released a six-point agenda for peace, one with which it's impossible to disagree. "Do not choose peace without human rights," demand the people most at risk from the men with whom the U.S. is negotiating. Women's rights cannot be bargained away; women must be at the table; law-and-order campaigns be compromised; and, above all, do not abandon a political order that has employed women, "has educated them, given them skills, lowered their mortality rates, and provided them with relative security."

What needs protection in Afghanistan are its people and the opportunities even a weak state makes possible for them.

Mihir Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is the author of "Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy."

## Va. fiasco puts Dems' troubled racial history on display

mainly Southern Democratic opposition.

But some Republicans led by 1964 presidential nominee Barry Goldwater wooed white Southerners turned off by the Democrats' stance, prompting President Lyndon Johnson to presidentially harness a political backlash though congressional support for voting rights remained bipartisan. As recently as 2006, Congress extended the law's main provisions by near-unanimous votes, despite growing GOP questions about its scope, which surfaced that year in cautionary comments from Senate Republicans.

After Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, buoyed by a rising tide of African-American and younger voters, GOP-controlled states began passing new restrictions on voting, such as the strict voter ID requirements. In 2013, the Supreme Court led by a conservative Justice Roberts who long harbored doubts about the Voting Rights Act, echoed that 2006 Senate GOP report by declaring unconstitutional the key portion requiring states with a history of discrimination to pre-clear voting law changes with the Justice Department.

The central question of updating that provision was not unreasonable. But the practical impact of its decision was to kill it, because congressional Republicans showed no interest in fixing the law.

Since then, a wide gap has developed between Democrats seeking to maintain and further the ability of all Americans to enjoy equal voting rights and some Republicans driven by concerns over questionable voter fraud. Republicans in Southern states enacted a variety of restrictive measures, which critics say are aimed at curbing the votes of minorities.

More recently, that gap was illustrated by President Donald Trump's slowness to condemn white supremacists and the contrast between Obama's energetic Justice Department enforcement of voting rights and the exact opposite stance by Trump's Justice Department, starting with its early decision to stop supporting a challenge to

the Texas voter ID law.

The gap was exemplified in recent weeks when the new House Democratic majority introduced a measure that, among other things, would revise and update the Voting Rights Act and encourage voting by easing registration and making Election Day a federal holiday. On the day the House Judiciary Committee opened hearings, the top congressional Republican, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, denounced the Democratic proposals as a partisan "power grab."

It is against this backdrop that the controversy erupted over the disclosure of racist imagery on Northham's medical college yearbook page and the virtually unanimous Democratic denunciation of the governor's tone-deaf response, which included volunteering that he put shoe polish on his face in a 1964 depiction of Michael Jackson. At a time the nation's non-white voting population continues growing, the Democrats see both a moral and a practical aspect to maintaining their fervent pro-civil rights positions and condemning deviations. Aside from being wrong, the latter would create problems with the black voters who have been the party's largest and most influential factions.

That is especially true in Virginia, where voters next November will fill all 140 seats in the Senate and the House of Delegates. The GOP currently holds narrow two-vote margins, and a large minority voter turnout is crucial to Democratic hopes.

Some GOP critics see the degree to which Democrats have championed minority rights in recent years as a crassly political response. While they are right that Democrats see political advantages in their position, it has the added value of being right. That juxtaposition has not always been the way American politicians have approached the issue of civil rights.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a former Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

# STARS STRIPES®

## Unlimited Digital Access

### INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONLY  
**99¢**

#### When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



#### Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

### Subscribe Today!

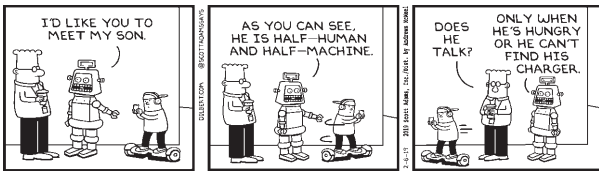


**[stripes.com/subscribe](https://stripes.com/subscribe)**

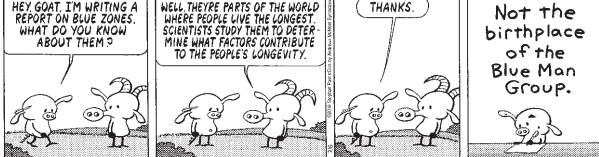
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



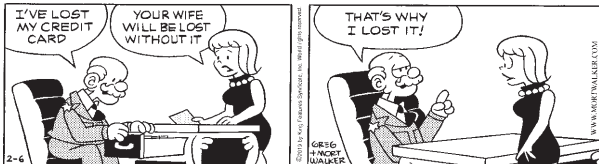
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13					14					
15				16					17					
18				19			20							
				21			22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30						31		32				
33				34					35		36			
37				38		39				40				
41				42		43								
				44		45		46		47	48	49		
50	51	52				53	54			55				
56						57					58			
59						60					61			

#### ACROSS

- 1 Scepter
- 4 Israeli airline
- 8 Staffer
- 12 Brit, record label
- 13 The Big Easy acronym
- 14 Not worth debating
- 15 Picnic crasher
- 16 Bird with yellow plumage
- 18 Popular takeout entree
- 20 Use a shovel
- 21 Golden
- 24 Fleecing ship
- 24 Atkinson of "Mr. Bean"
- 28 Wood pigeon
- 32 Long tale
- 33 Mil. morale booster
- 34 Gladden
- 36 Decay
- 37 Lost traction
- 39 Pink wading bird
- 41 King of Judea
- 43 Faux pas
- 44 Belly
- 46 Tribal emblem
- 50 Coastal diving bird
- 55 Chopper
- 56 — mater
- 57 Bassoon's kin

- 58 Director Burton
- 59 Longings
- 60 See to
- 61 Packed away

#### DOWN

- 1 Harvest
- 2 Hotel chain
- 3 Bubblehead
- 4 Fencer's cry
- 5 Brit's restroom
- 6 100 percent
- 7 "Shane" star
- 8 Juan's pals
- 9 Charged bit
- 10 Medico
- 11 Ordinal suffix
- 17 Fragrant tree
- 19 Abrupt turn
- 22 Michelle
- 23 We're game
- 23 Cameo shapes
- 25 Tip off
- 26 Awestruck
- 27 Peacekeeping org.
- 28 Hurry
- 29 Capri, for one
- 30 Pinot —
- 31 And others (Lat.)
- 35 Sent forth
- 38 Doctrines
- 40 Wall St. debut
- 42 Pair
- 45 Jog
- 47 "Toodle-oo!"
- 48 Way out
- 49 Viral web phenomenon
- 50 Low isle
- 51 Flamenco cheer
- 52 LB's successor
- 53 Copper head?
- 54 "Smoking or —?"

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	L	A	M		T	A	L	C		S	I	P
P	E	R	U		E	M	I	L		W	O	E
S	A	M	M		S	O	S	A		E	N	T
					B	E	S	S		R	E	E
T	E	S	L	A		F	I	S	T			
R	A	K	E		D	N	A	T	E	S	T	S
O	V	I		F	O	A	M		P	I	E	
D	E	S	O	L	A	T	E		B	O	N	E
				L	A	O	S		O	R	T	O
B	L	O	T	S		V	I	L	A			
L	I	P		S	T	A	T	E	S	O	N	G
O	R	E		E	A	S	T		S	H	A	M
G	A	S		D	U	T		Y		Y	O	G

#### 2-6

#### CRYPTOQUIP

V MJXKBYM YLBY NTJVN,  
ZVDNM LM VZ FMUH ETTS BY  
SMKVFVUVDL LXJTU SUHKH.

LM'Z JH SUTKK JTSMK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A HUGE BUILDING GOT DEMOLISHED BY IMPLOSION YESTERDAY, IT WAS REALLY A DYNAMITE DISPLAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals M




## FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

# CLASSIFIED

Go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) to place your free ad. *Sell fast/ Buy fast*

When you see this  camera icon go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) to view the uploaded photo.

EUROPE		MIDDLE EAST		PACIFIC
Advertising	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013		Ichiro Katayanagi CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267
Circulation	Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150		Mari Matsumoto SSPcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171
Reader Letters	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com		letters@stripes.com

## ClassifiedsEUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Tax Assistance 940

### SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- ❑ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.

- ❑ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

### H&R BLOCK<sup>®</sup>



Germany H&R Block Tax  
Offices Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein 06371-8020410	Wiesbaden 06134-256963	Vilseck 01735-736112
---------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------

Email: [eclemons@hrblock.com](mailto:eclemons@hrblock.com)

Autos for Sale  
- Germany 142

Travel 1000

Auto - Quality Pre-owned  
US SPEC Vehicles  
[www.vilseckhaus-stuttgart.com](http://www.vilseckhaus-stuttgart.com)  
Free Europe-wide delivery

\*\*\*Winter in Garmisch\*\*\*  
Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km  
N of Garmisch-Tiefenbrunn  
30eur PP, DBL occp, free brkfst,  
dogs welcome. 08554-9120  
[www.forsthaus-oberau.de](http://www.forsthaus-oberau.de)

## Want a better picture?



You'll get one – just by reading  
Stars and Stripes military  
news coverage.

*In print • Online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) •  
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad*

No one covers the bases  
the way we do.

## STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

However you read us, wherever you need us.

## Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

## STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

Mobile • Online • Print

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

## For the troops

Stars and Stripes was a primary source of news for the troops at the Front and behind the lines in World War II. Although it printed only in the European theater during the war, it covered news from all theaters.



## Support the Mission

Subscribe at [Stripes.com/digital](https://www.strips.com/digital) or email [MemberServices@stripes.com](mailto:MemberServices@stripes.com) to donate a subscription.





## NHL

## Roundup

## Flyers win 8th straight

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carter Hart made 41 saves, Sean Couturier and Jakub Voracek scored, and the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Vancouver Canucks 2-1 on Monday night for their eighth straight victory.

The Flyers pulled within five points of a playoff spot after having the NHL's worst record on Jan. 9 — they were 14 points out of a postseason berth during the All-Star break just over a week ago. Philadelphia also became the first NHL expansion club to reach 2,000 victories.

Hart, Philadelphia's 20-year-old rookie, won his seventh straight start with another solid game. His best stop came with 5½ minutes left when he dived with his right arm to deny Nikolai Goldobin from a sharp angle on a power play.

Brook Boeser scored for Vancouver, which was playing the first of three games in four nights.

The game was delayed for several minutes midway through the third period after Vancouver's Alexander Edler went down with a scary-looking injury. Edler's skate got caught in Voracek's stick, causing Edler to land face-first on the ice. With a bloodied face and dazed look, a conscious Edler was wheeled off on a stretcher while sitting upright.

**Kings 4, Rangers 3 (OT):** Tyler Toffoli scored 25 seconds into overtime and visiting Los Angeles rallied to beat New York.

Toffoli's ninth goal of the season came moments after the Rangers' Mika Zibanejad rang the puck off the post behind Kings goaltender Jonathan Quick.

Toffoli was mobbed by his teammates as Rangers netminder Henrik Lundqvist skated away in disgust.

**Maple Leafs 6, Ducks 1:** Andreas Johansson had two goals and two assists, Jake Muzzin added a goal and two assists and host Toronto routed Anaheim.

William Nylander and John Tavares each had a goal and an assist, and Connor Brown also scored for Toronto, which has won three in a row at Scotiabank Arena after dropping six of its previous seven home games.

**Stars 5, Coyotes 4:** Tyler Seguin scored a tiebreaking goal with 7:32 to play, and host Dallas scored four goals in a wild third period on the way to a victory over Arizona.

Roope Hintz, John Klingberg, Radek Faksa and Mattias Janmark also scored for the Stars. Ben Bishop made 39 saves as Dallas extended its winning streak to a season-best five games.

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	52	39	11	2	80	205	146
Toronto	52	32	17	3	67	185	146
Montreal	52	29	18	6	64	160	155
Boston	52	28	17	7	63	149	135
Buffalo	51	25	20	6	56	148	155
Florida	50	21	21	8	50	156	175
Detroit	53	21	25	7	49	150	174
Ottawa	52	19	35	5	43	159	184
Metropolitan Division							
N.Y. Islanders	52	28	18	6	66	151	125
Washington	52	28	18	6	62	175	166
Pittsburgh	51	28	19	6	62	183	160
Columbus	51	28	19	5	60	163	169
Carolina	52	25	21	6	56	148	155
Philadelphia	53	24	21	7	54	153	177
N.Y. Rangers	52	22	22	8	52	148	175
New Jersey	51	20	24	7	47	152	173

## Western Conference

	Central Division					Pts	GF	GA
	GP	W	L	OT				
Winnipeg	52	34	16	2	70	185	146	
Nashville	52	34	19	4	66	166	139	
Dallas	53	28	21	4	60	138	134	
Minnesota	52	26	22	4	56	146	149	
Colorado	51	22	21	8	52	170	167	
St. Louis	50	23	22	5	51	143	151	
Chicago	53	26	24	9	49	167	196	
	Pacific Division							
Calgary	53	34	14	5	73	197	152	
San Jose	53	30	16	7	67	190	169	
Vegas	54	29	21	4	62	160	148	
Vancouver	53	24	23	6	54	153	164	
Arizona	52	23	24	5	51	138	150	
Edmonton	52	23	24	5	51	151	172	
Anaheim	53	21	23	9	51	124	168	
Los Angeles	53	21	27	4	46	120	157	

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild card per conference advance to playoffs.

## Sunday's games

Boston 1, Washington 0  
Montreal 4, Edmonton 3, OT  
Calgary 4, Carolina 3

## Monday's games

Los Angeles 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, OT  
Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 1  
Toronto 6, Anaheim 1

## Tuesday's games

N.Y. Islanders at Boston  
Vancouver at Washington  
Carolina at Pittsburgh  
Los Angeles at New Jersey

## Wednesday's games

Minnesota at Buffalo  
St. Louis at Florida  
Vegas at Tampa Bay  
Anaheim at Montreal

## Thursday's games

St. Louis at Tampa Bay  
Pittsburgh at Florida  
Los Angeles at New Jersey  
Colorado at Washington

## Friday's games

Chicago at Edmonton  
Ottawa at Toronto  
Boston at N.Y. Rangers

## Saturday's games

Los Angeles at Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh at Florida  
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey  
Colorado at Washington

## Sunday's games

Carolina at Buffalo  
Anaheim at Montreal  
St. Louis at Tampa Bay  
Vegas at Detroit

## Monday's games

Minnesota at Chicago  
Columbus at Arizona  
San Jose at Calgary

## Tuesday's games

Carolina at N.Y. Rangers  
Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 1  
Toronto 6, Anaheim 1

## Wednesday's games

Los Angeles 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, OT  
Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 1  
Toronto 6, Anaheim 1

## Thursday's games

N.Y. Islanders at Boston  
Vancouver at Washington  
Carolina at Pittsburgh  
Los Angeles at New Jersey

## Friday's games

Chicago at Edmonton  
Ottawa at Toronto  
Boston at N.Y. Rangers

## Saturday's games

Los Angeles at Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh at Florida  
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey  
Colorado at Washington

## Sunday's games

Carolina at Buffalo  
Anaheim at Montreal  
St. Louis at Tampa Bay  
Vegas at Detroit

## Monday's games

Minnesota at Chicago  
Columbus at Arizona  
San Jose at Calgary

## Tuesday's games

Carolina at N.Y. Rangers  
Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 1  
Toronto 6, Anaheim 1

## Wednesday's games

Los Angeles 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, OT  
Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 1  
Toronto 6, Anaheim 1

## Thursday's games

N.Y. Islanders at Boston  
Vancouver at Washington  
Carolina at Pittsburgh  
Los Angeles at New Jersey

## Friday's games

Chicago at Edmonton  
Ottawa at Toronto  
Boston at N.Y. Rangers

## Monday

## Kings 4, Rangers 3 (OT)

Los Angeles 1, 0 2 2 1-4  
N.Y. Rangers 3, 1 0 2 3-6

**First Period—1.** N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 24 (Zibanejad, DeAngelis), 8:32, 2, Los Angeles, Kempe 6 (Kovalchuk, Hagelin), 17:23.

**Second Period—3.** N.Y. Rangers, Zibanejad 21 (Staal, Zuccarello), 0:32.

**Third Period—4.** Los Angeles, Kopitar 16 (Kovalchuk), 5:04, 5, N.Y. Rangers, McQuaid 1, 9:15, 6, Los Angeles, Kempe 7 (Toffoli, Anadrol), 19:00.

**Overtime—7.** Los Angeles, Toffoli 9 (Kopitar), 12:32.

**Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 8-13-8-1-30.** N.Y. Rangers 12-12-3-2-27.

**Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 2; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 2.**

**Goalies—Los Angeles, Kopitar 10-13-3 (27 shots-24 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 16-13-9 (30-26).**

**A—16,233 (18,006). T—2:27.**

## Flyers 2, Canucks 1

Vancouver 0 1 0-1  
Philadelphia 1 1 0-2

**First Period—1.** Philadelphia, Couturier 21 (Konecny, Patrick), 18:37 (pp).

**Second Period—2.** Philadelphia, Voracek 12 (Voronek), 3:20, 3, Vancouver, Boeser 8, 5:14.

**Third Period—4.** Philadelphia, Voracek 12 (Voronek), 10:14-18-42, Philadelphia 14-12-4-30.

**Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 3; Philadelphia 1 of 3.**

**Goalies—Vancouver, Markstrom 20-14-5 (30 shots-28 saves). Philadelphia, Hart 10-5-1 (42-41).**

**A—16,671 (15,543). T—2:32.**

## Maple Leafs 6, Ducks 1

Anaheim 0 0 1-1  
Toronto 3 3 3-6

**First Period—1.** Toronto, Tavares 31 (Johnsson, Gauthier), 3:02, 2, Toronto, Muzzin 5 (Johnsson, Gardiner), 19:57 (pp).

**Second Period—4.** Anaheim, Rakell 9 (Manson, H.Lindholm), 2:45, 5, Toronto, Brown 5 (Nylander, Muzzin), 3:16, 6, Toronto, Nylander 2 (Nyman, Tavares), 14:51.

**Third Period—4.** Anaheim, Rakell 9 (Manson, H.Lindholm), 2:45, 5, Toronto, Brown 5 (Nylander, Muzzin), 3:16, 6, Toronto, Nylander 2 (Nyman, Tavares), 14:51.

**Shots on Goal—Anaheim 8-10-7-25.** Toronto 13-19-12-44.

**Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 1; Toronto 1 of 3.**

**Goalies—Anaheim, Gibson 17-18-8 (25 shots-30 saves). Toronto 2-9-9 (38-24).**

**A—18,858 (18,819). T—2:33.**

## Stars 5, Coyotes 4

Arizona 1 1 1-4  
Dallas 4 1 2-5

**First Period—1.** Arizona, Ekman-Larsen 3 (Spezza, Hellekarne), 8:38.

**Second Period—2.** Dallas, Hintz 3 (Spezza, Hellekarne), 3:36 (pp), 3, Arizona, Connauton 1 (Archibald, Lubyschkin), 9:54.

**Third Period—4.** Dallas, Klingberg 7 (Seguin, Benn), 2:28 (pp), 5, Dallas, Faksa 9 (Gurianov, Hellekarne), 5:04 (pp), 6, Dallas, Janmark 6 (Ondrejka, Grousse, Oesterle), 6:49, 8, Arizona, Gaichenyuk 9 (Keller, Cousins), 7:59, 9, Dallas, Seguin 22 (Benn, Radulov), 12:28.

**Shots on Goal—Arizona 14-13-15-42.** Dallas 19-8-10-25.

**Power-play opportunities—Arizona 0 of 3; Dallas 4 of 5.**

**Goalies—Arizona, Kuemper 11-12-5 (24 shots-14 saves). Dallas, Bishop 19-12-2 (42-38).**

**A—17,996 (18,532). T—2:42.**



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto Maple Leafs center Patrick Marleau, left, and Pittsburgh Penguins center Nick Bjugstad battle for the puck during the third period of Saturday's game in Toronto.

## Two newest Pens finally settling in

By WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — It wasn't the hastily arranged private plane ride from Miami to Pittsburgh. Or the police escort from the airport to PPG Paints Arena. It wasn't the sight of a black-and-gold jersey with his name on the back hanging in the Pittsburgh Penguins' locker room. It wasn't even racing to the bench and onto the ice with his new teammates without exchanging so much as an introductory handshake.

No, Jared McCann's "whoa" moment from the most exhilarating and surreal weekend of his professional life came Sunday, when the newly acquired forward arrived at Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby's house to watch the Super Bowl with the rest of the gang.

"There's like an area to the side there, and it's Hart Trophy, Hart Trophy, Hart Trophy," McCann said, referring to Crosby's three NHL MVP awards.

Welcome to Pittsburgh, where the climate isn't the only thing that's a shock to the system.

On Friday morning, McCann and Nick Bjugstad thought they were part of the long-term plans for the Florida Panthers. By Sunday night, they were hanging out in the home of one of the game's biggest stars while playing for a team where anything less than a Stanley Cup parade through downtown in mid-June is considered a disappointment.

No pressure or anything.

"As soon as I walked in the rink here, they have the (championships) banners hanging everywhere," McCann said. "It's like 'You know what? We win here.'"

You get that feeling. You just have confidence. You know you have guys that are going to show up every night and play well, and I want to be a positive influence for this team."

The Penguins are counting on that from both the 22-year-old McCann and the 26-year-old Bjugstad, brought over in a trade with Florida for veteran forwards Riley Sheahan, Derrick Brassard and three 2019 draft picks.

The early returns have been promising. Both players hardly looked overwhelmed while playing a back-to-back against Ottawa and Toronto in their first 27 hours with their new club. Bjugstad joined the second line and picked up an assist in a victory over the Senators while McCann played solidly centering the third line between forwards Tanner Pearson and Petric Horvath.

"I thought they handled it great coming into a new dressing room 10 minutes before the game, getting thrown in there right into a game, playing some pretty good minutes, too," Crosby said.

"There's a lot to be said about that. Sometimes that's the best way get thrown into it like that."

McCann credited Horvath for helping put him in the right spots on the ice over the weekend while the 6-foot-6 Bjugstad tried not to overdo it while centering the second line in place of injured Evgeni Malkin.

"It's almost better not having time to think," Bjugstad said.

That came on Monday when they went through their first practice in Pittsburgh. If Bjugstad wasn't getting pulled away for a private moment with assistant coach Mark Recchi, then McCann was peppering anyone who would listen with questions.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Flyers goalie Carter Hart blocks a shot by the Vancouver Canucks' Mika Zibanejad during the third period of Monday's game in Philadelphia. The Flyers won 2-1 for their eighth straight victory.

## SKIING/SPORTS BRIEFS/AUTO RACING

# Old: Vonn has one last downhill left

## FROM BACK PAGE

for the seventh time soon after she retires — to repair the left knee ligament she tore during training in November.

"I need complete reconstruction. That will be fun. Hopefully my last surgery," Vonn said.

Vonn was planning on retiring in December but moved up her last race upon realizing last month after failing to finish a super-G in Italy that her knees just can't handle anymore pounding. She has discussed the long-term health risks for her body with her doctors.

"I'm screwed. I've known that for three years now," Vonn said. "It's only a matter of time. The analogy I was given was, I only have a certain amount of steps left. And I've run out of steps at this point. I know. I'll have pain for the rest of my life but I wouldn't change it. ... I got no cartilage, no meniscus, I got rods and plates and screws. There's a lot going on. My head is still good, that's all I need."

It didn't take Vonn long to process on why she crashed. When she barreled through a gate, the panel fitted between the two poles detached and got stuck on her boots. When she hit the ground she slid downhill face first, using her hands to keep her head from hitting the snow, then came to a



ALESSANDRO TROVATI/AP

**American Mikaela Shiffrin won the women's super G Tuesday at the World Championships in Are, Sweden.**

stop in the netting.

"I had the right line coming in, that roll or jump had kind of a crown, it wasn't exactly smooth and I think one of my skis hooked up and sent me into the panel," she said. "The header into the fence wasn't the best."

"My immediate thought was 'What the hell? Why am I in the fence again?' It was like, 'Why am I here? I'm too old for this.'"

Vonn was wearing a safety air bag device under her racing suit, which inflated as she tumbled over and softened the impact when she hit the safety nets.

On a highly technical course, many other skiers also failed to finish their run. American teammate Laurence Ross also crashed and of the 43 starters, 14 failed to finish.

Mikaela Shiffrin won a race despite nearly making a similar

error to Vonn toward the end of her run, correcting her direction in mid-air as she, too, was heading directly into a gate.

"I just squeaked by," the American said. "That's the sport. It's such a fine line between the risk you have to take in order to win and then the risk where you take it's just a little bit too much."

Upon seeing Vonn's crash, Shiffrin looked away from the big video screen in the finish area. Sofia Goggia, who took silver, clasped her helmet with both hands, and the crowd gasped. One American fan appeared to be crying.

"That's Lindsey. She [goes] 100 percent or nothing," said Austrian racer Nicole Schmidhofer, who finished 11th. "That's why she has won so many races and why she's an Olympic champion."

## Briefly

# Refs train on VAR for World Cup

Associated Press

Women's World Cup referees are undergoing training with VARs in matches over the next two weeks, The Associated Press has learned, paving the way for the FIFA council to approve the use of video reviews at the tournament in France.

FIFA has faced criticism for not committing to using video assistant referees at the June 7-July 7 Women's World Cup just as they were for the men's tournament for the first time in Russia last year.

Amid growing demands for clarity on the deployment of VAR, United States women's team coach Jill Ellis said it would be "insulting" if female players didn't have an equal right to have decisions reviewed by video at their biggest tournament. England counterpart Phil Neville has also criticized the standard of refereeing in the women's game and the lack of technology which could reduce mistakes.

FIFA only gave the first indication on Monday that it does plan to use the technology in France after the AP discovered previously undisclosed training with VAR was taking place in seminars and matches in Qatar.

"The final decision if VAR will be used at the Women's World Cup will be taken by the FIFA council," FIFA told The Associated Press on Monday.

## Coroner: Foul ball in LA caused woman's death

LOS ANGELES — A woman died as a result of being struck in the head by a foul ball at Dodger Stadium last August, according to a coroner's report obtained by ESPN.

Linda Goldbloom was celebrating her 79th birthday and 59th wedding anniversary at a game Aug. 25 when a ball hit by a San Diego Padres player traveled over an area protected by netting and struck Goldbloom in the head. She died four days later at L.A. County-USC Medical Center.

The Los Angeles County coroner's report said trauma from the batted ball was the cause of death.

The Dodgers said in a statement that the "matter has been resolved between the Dodgers and the Goldbloom family."

For the first time last season, all 30 major league ballparks had expanded protective netting that

reached to at least the far ends of each dugout. The push for expansion increased in 2017 after a series of spectator injuries.

## Kvitova testifies in knife attack trial

PRAGUE — Australian Open finalist Petra Kvitová testified in the Czech Republic on Tuesday at the trial of the man who allegedly knifed her in her home.

After the December 2016 attack in her home in Prostějov, Kvitová had surgery on injuries to her left hand. It took the tennis star more than five months to recover.

Her testimony was requested by a lawyer for the suspect, the 33-year-old Radim Zondra.

Kvitová said she opened the door when Zondra rang the doorbell because she expected a possible doping control. The suspect claimed he came to inspect her boiler.

Kvitová said she suddenly felt he was holding a knife to her throat from behind. When she grabbed the knife, the blade damaged the tendons in her hand, along with all five fingers and two nerves

# NASCAR will DQ cheating winners

## Series cracking down on failing inspections

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR announced Monday that it will disqualify race-winning cars that break the rules this season, confronting its longtime culture of cheating with a stringent new penalty system.

"If you are illegal, you don't win the race," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR's chief racing development officer. "We cannot allow inspection and penalties to continue to be a prolonged storyline. Race vehicles are expected to adhere to the rule book from the opening of the garage to the checkered flag."

The new approach is a seismic shift for NASCAR because it traditionally wanted fans to leave the event knowing who won the race. If a car failed inspection, either at the track or in a more thorough secondary teardown at NASCAR's Research and Development Center in the days following the race, driver and team were usually docked points, fined or in some cases had crew members suspended.

The penalties were typically not announced until several days after the race.

Inspections will now be completed at the track, a process that should take about 90 minutes, and the winning team will lose its victory if it fails. Disqualified cars will now lose points, purse money and even the trophy.

Kevin Harvick's race-winning car failed inspection twice last season and both instances led to fines, suspensions and the loss of points. He won at Texas Motor Speedway in November to earn an automatic berth into the championship finale, but that was stripped when his car failed the R&D inspection days after the race.

Under the new system, the runner-up will be declared the winner and the team with the illegal car will receive only one championship point.

"We're really looking at a total culture change," O'Donnell said.

The last driver believed to have been stripped outright of a national series victory was Dale Jarrett following a 1995 race in NASCAR's second-tier series at Michigan. He was dropped to 42nd when his Ford was found to have an illegally modified intake manifold two hours after the race.

NASCAR will also change its process for cars that fail inspection prior to qualifying and the race.

It had devolved into comedy at times last season as teams used multiple attempts to get through inspection. NASCAR said it will now eject team members, dock practice time and, in an enhanced penalty, bar a car from trying to

## 'We're really looking at a total culture change.'

Steve O'Donnell  
NASCAR's chief racing development officer

qualify for the race if it fails three times. A car that twice fails pre-race inspection will be sent to the back of the field at the start, a third failure will require a pass-through penalty at the start.

"We've been through a deterrence model where we've really worked with the race teams at the track and probably been more lenient than we should in terms of the number of times teams can go through inspection and pass, fail and there's almost incentive to try to get something by NASCAR, so we want to really reverse that trend," O'Donnell said. "We're going to put it on the teams to bring their equipment right. When they come to the track, we'll be much less lenient as they go through technical inspection with stiffer penalties in terms of qualifying, and then ultimately during the race, obviously we want everyone to be racing straight up."

**Qualifying:** NASCAR will not go to a single-car qualifying format this season despite a new racing rules package that will likely bunch the field into a pack. NASCAR even took a step toward ensuring the qualifying sessions are entertaining by shortening the first round at short tracks and intermediate speedways from 15 minutes to 10. That will force drivers to gear the track and make their qualifying attempt rather than idling on pit road and trying to nail a fast lap as the clock expired. The break between rounds will be trimmed from seven minutes to five.

Qualifying at superspeedways will remain two untimed rounds of single-lap qualifying. Road-course qualifying will continue to be two rounds at 25 minutes followed by a 10-minute final round.

**New car:** The seventh-generation stock car is on schedule to compete in 2021. A key goal in development is to strengthen the correlation between race cars and the model available to customers. NASCAR is courting additional manufacturers to join the sport and the Gen-7 car will aim to increase brand identity. NASCAR said it was near certain the new car will have a composite body.

"I think you will see a new NASCAR in terms of what you may see on the track and what you may see under the hood," O'Donnell said.





## NBA

## Around the NBA

## Gasol, Conley eager for trade resolutions

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Marc Gasol forgot his cellphone overnight on the Grizzlies' team bus over the weekend, giving himself some stress-free time in New York.

"I'm like, if I get traded then so be it," Gasol said.

He and Mike Conley won't be able to hide quite so easily the next few days.

The NBA trade deadline is Thursday afternoon, and Memphis has told the franchise mainstays it is listening to offers for both. Conley acknowledges it will be an emotional week envisioning the end of an era.

"Before I would have said no, it wouldn't have been on my mind, not having been in this situation," he said. "But I'm not going to lie, it's going to creep in because you know that it's possible that one or both will be gone, and either way it'll be the last time we're playing together with him, or for the team, or whatever."

The Grizzlies have fallen out of the playoff race, but teams who are in it might be interested in adding one of the respected veterans. During games or at home with the family, Gasol said it's easy to ignore the trade chatter. But the Grizzlies have been on the road, with plenty of time alone in hotel rooms where the mind tends to wander.

"So yeah, it is a little weird, but it's coming to an end one way or another," Gasol said. Conley is eager for that.

"You look forward to that deadline passing," Conley said. "Either way it goes, you just want to get clarity and understand your situation going forward, and you try to block it out but it's hard. Everybody who texts you or talks to you in person mentions something about it, so it's hard to run from it. But you just hope for the week to get through real quick and get back to business, whether it's here or anywhere else."

## Dirk's work

Dirk Nowitzki might have one of the bus-

iest schedules at All-Star weekend.

He's an honorary coach of the World team at the Rising Stars Challenge. The next night, he'll take part in the three-point contest. Finally, he'll play in the All-Star Game after he and Dwyane Wade were selected by Commissioner Adam Silver as special roster additions.

It's a pretty full workload for anyone.

Imagine what it takes to handle an NBA season at age 40.

"If anybody knew the amount of work that he's put in to get to a point where he can come out on the floor and help our team and still shoot the ball the way he shoots it and scramble around and defend, they'd be absolutely amazed," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said.

Nowitzki missed the start of his record-breaking 21st season after a lengthy recovery from left ankle surgery last April.

That's made it hard even for the NBA's No. 7 career scorer to find a rhythm. He reached double digits only twice in his first 20 games.

"It hasn't been a smooth season for me with sitting out right during training camp for about eight weeks and then battling an uphill battle to try to come back at 40 in the middle of the season, so it's been frustrating at times," Nowitzki said. "I'm sure the guys saw that at times where I wasn't happy and I was still trying to push through, and I'm going to do my work on off days so I can at least play at a decent level and still hopefully enjoy the rest of the season a little more than I did the first, whatever, 20 games."

Nowitzki scored a season-high 14 points last Wednesday at New York, where he was treated to warm ovations from fans in what could be his final season. Carlisle seemed moved as he talked about a player he said fans view as one of their own.

"It's a respect thing and it's one of the reasons that I'm taking in every moment of this, and I do see the amount of work that he puts in to get on the floor and help," Carlisle said. "I can't begin to tell you all the things that he's had to do, but he's been slugging it out and it's just been great to see."



SETH WENIG/AP

The Grizzlies' Marc Gasol, left, drives past the Knicks' DeAndre Jordan during the first half Sunday in New York. Memphis could trade Gasol before Thursday's NBA deadline.

## All-Star, movie star

Karl-Anthony Towns is not only a two-time All-Star, but about to be a two-time movie star.

The latter comes on the same day.

The Minnesota Timberwolves forward/center is in a pair of films that debut Friday. He plays himself in "What Men Want," in which Taraji P. Henson stars as an NBA agent trying to land the No. 1 pick, who in one scene gets to have a conversation with

Towns, one of his heroes.

Towns treated staff from the Timberwolves and the WNBA's Lynx to a screening of the film last week.

Also Friday, "High Flying Bird" will begin being streamed on Netflix. Directed by Academy Award winner Steven Soderbergh, it's a fictional tale of an agent managing a rookie client during a lockout and features interviews with Towns, plus Donovan Mitchell and Reggie Jackson, discussing their real-life early NBA experiences.

## Reeling Heat face daunting stretch on the road



BYRON ANDERSON/AP

Heat guard Dwyane Wade has only missed the playoffs twice in his career, a streak that could be in jeopardy as Miami begins a tough six-game road stretch ahead of the All-Star break.

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade has missed the playoffs only twice in his career, and the Miami Heat aren't exactly looking like a sure bet to get him one more trip to the postseason before retirement.

And a struggling team has no relief in sight, either.

The Heat play their next six contests on the road, a daunting stretch that started Tuesday in Portland then moves to Sacramento, Golden State, Denver and Dallas in the last game before the All-Star break — then Philadelphia for the first game after the break. Entering Monday's games, four of those teams rank among the NBA's top 10 this season, and those six foes have a combined winning percentage of .610.

All that comes with Miami currently having a tenuous grip, at best, on the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference — not at all helped by losing three home

games in a four-day span last week.

"We've got to figure it out, man," said Wade, the 13-time All-Star in his 16th and final NBA season. "Like I tell the guys, it is not going to get any easier. We are going on a hell of a road trip. This five-game road trip is the toughest stretch of the season."

Then again, it might be exactly what Miami needs.

The Heat are very difficult to figure out in many respects. When they boarded the plane for the six-hour flight to Portland on Monday morning, they were 25th in the NBA in home winning percentage and 26th in scoring per game, both of which are awful. They're also seventh-best in road winning percentage and third-best in points allowed per game, obviously superb in those areas.

They're also last in the NBA in free-throw shooting, but fourth-best in the league in field goal percentage defense.

Go figure. There's a lot of really good, a lot of really bad, and the result is a 24-27 record with 31 games left.

"Do you want everything laid out perfectly for you in this association? No," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "This league, save for maybe one team, is about dealing with adversity, dealing with competition, dealing with things that don't necessarily go your way and seeing how you respond to it collectively, seeing if you can become something new and something better from tough times."

The high-water mark for the Heat this season has been one game over .500 — done on three occasions, at 3-2, 19-18 and 21-20. They're on their fourth different three-game losing streak of the season.

If things don't change in a hurry, it could get much worse.

"If we don't want to go 0-8 in the last eight, then we've got to

figure out a way to get out of the rut," Wade said.

When the All-Star break ends, the Heat could get point guard Goran Dragic back following about a two-month absence for knee surgery. Derrick Jones Jr., who was becoming a key part of things for the Heat on both ends, is recovering from two bone bruises in his knee. Help is coming, eventually.

In the short term, though, the Heat are who they are.

And Wade's playoff plans might depend on what happens over the next couple of weeks, with Detroit, Washington and Orlando all within three games of the Heat for the No. 8 spot in the East.

"We're hitting up against a wall right now," Spoelstra said. "And we have to find maybe a different path instead of just trying to bang our head right through it. But no, I'm not frustrated. I'm invigorated. I want to figure this out for this team."

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NFL



DON PETERSEN/AP

Louisville guard Ryan McMahon, left, drives against Virginia Tech guard Nickell Alexander-Walker during the first half on Monday.

## Top 25 roundup

# McMahon shoots Louisville past No. 11 Va. Tech

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Ryan McMahon knows No. 16 Louisville's offense is likely to change, and quickly, when he makes a three-pointer.

How quickly? "The next possession," he said Monday night after scoring 12 points in a span of 83 seconds in the second half as the Cardinals used a 14-3 run to pull away and beat No. 11 Virginia Tech 72-64 on Monday night. ("Christen Cunningham) and (Dwayne Sutton), they do a great job just when I hit one they keep going back to me until the well is dry."

McMahon had just three points before he made three free throws with 11:53 to play. He then added three three-pointers, the last with 10:30 left, to bolster the Cardinals (17-6, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference). It is Louisville's 15th consecutive victory in the series.

"He does it in practice all the time, so it's not really a surprise when he makes one or two. You know the next one is going to go in and the next one," said Jordan Nwora, who along with Sutton added 15 points.

McMahon finished with 17 points, his second-highest total of the season.

"For Ryan to do what he did there in the middle of the second half just took some wind out of their sails," coach Chris Mack said.

Kerry Blackshear Jr. scored 21 points and Nickell Alexander-Walker 17 for the Hokies (18-4, 7-3), who lost for the first time in 12 home games.

**No. 17 Iowa State 75, Oklahoma 74:** Lindell Wigginton scored 17 points to help lead the visiting Cyclones to a victory over the Sooners.

Mariel Shayok added 16 points, 10 in the final eight minutes, including a crucial off-balance three-pointer as the shot clock expired with 1:19 remaining, for Iowa State (18-5, 7-3 Big 12). Shayok, who shot just 2-for-7 for six points during the first 32-plus minutes, also had eight rebounds and five assists as the Cyclones won their fourth straight.

Kristian Doolittle had 19 points and nine rebounds, while Brady Manek scored 16 for Oklahoma (15-8, 3-7), which has lost three in a row.

**No. 18 Texas Tech 81, West Virginia 50:** Brandone Francis scored a season-high 16 points and the host Red Raiders overwhelmed the Mountaineers.

Texas Tech (18-5, 6-4 Big 12), which lost four of its previous five Big 12 games, took control with a 13-0 run midway through the first half. That was part of a stretch during which West Virginia missed 11 consecutive shots in a span of more than 15 minutes. West Virginia (10-13, 2-8) finished 9-for-39 shooting overall.

# Flores goes from champs to Dolphins

By STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — When Brian Flores was asked how he celebrated winning the Super Bowl with the Patriots, he paused for several seconds and laughed.

"I kissed my wife on the field," Flores said.

Then it was on to the next challenge, and a big one — fixing the Miami Dolphins. Flores, the New England linebackers coach and defensive play-caller, was hired Monday as Miami's head coach.

He accepted the job hours after helping the Patriots shut down the high-scoring Los Angeles Rams for a 13-3 victory Sunday night in Atlanta.

"It has been a whirlwind 24 hours," Flores said with a smile at a news conference that drew two dozen cameras.

"Looking at this crowd here, you'd think we won the Super Bowl," Miami owner Stephen Ross said. "I've never seen this many people in this room. ... To me, you start an organization by signing a great leader. I believe we've found that leader."

Flores was the first person the Dolphins interviewed after they fired coach Adam Gase on Dec. 31. They decided on Jan. 11 to offer the job to Flores but had to wait until New England's season ended to complete an agreement.

"I wasn't in a rush to become a head coach," said Flores, 37. "I had a good job in New England."

Flores said the job with the Patriots' longtime AFC East foil was appealing because he shared a vision with general manager Chris Grier on how to build a winner.

He has a long relationship with Grier, who took charge of football operations in the recent organizational shake-up. Both started as scouts for the Patriots.

While preparing for the Super Bowl, Flores also began to hire a Miami staff. The group is expected to include former Colts and Lions head coach Jim Caldwell as assistant head coach, Patriots receivers coach Chad O'Shea as offensive coordinator and Packers assistant Patrick Graham as defensive coordinator.

The son of Honduran immigrants, Flores grew up in Brooklyn and has spent his entire coaching career with the Patriots. He joined them in 2004 and became their de facto defensive coordinator a year ago after Matt Patricia left to join the Lions as their head coach.

Flores is the ninth former assistant to Bill Belichick to become a head coach.

"I think he'll be awesome," Patriots cornerback Devin McCourty said. "But he's in the division, so I told him he can't win too many games."

# Waiting game over: Bengals hire Taylor

By JOE KAY

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — After 16 years without a playoff win under Marvin Lewis, the Bengals decided to try something different. But they had to wait more than a month before hiring Zac Taylor as their next coach in hopes of ending a long streak of futility.

The Rams quarterbacks coach reached a deal Monday a few hours after LA's 13-3 loss to the Patriots in the Super Bowl. Cincinnati had to wait until after the title game to make his hiring official. The Bengals and Dolphins were the last two teams to fill head coaching vacancies, with Miami hiring the Patriots' Brian Flores.

After three straight losing seasons and 28 years without a playoff victory, Cincinnati joined the latest wave — turning to a young, offensive-minded coach.

Taylor is a bright coach with an offensive mind and background, which is important to have in today's NFL," owner Mike Brown said in a statement. "And he's young. He embraces new ideas and new ways to do things, which will be a good thing for us."

The Bengals were to introduce Taylor on Tuesday in what amounts to a homecoming for the 35-year-old coach.

Taylor was offensive coordinator at the University of Cincinnati in 2016, when the Bearcats finished 4-8. Coach Tommy Tuberville was replaced after the season, and Taylor headed back to the NFL.

During his one year in town, the Bengals were starting their streak of three straight losing seasons that ultimately cost Lewis his job.

Taylor is taking a cue from a former NFL head coach in how to handle his new job.

"My father-in-law, Mike Sherman, coached a long, long time, and he just said, 'Be true to yourself. Be who you are, and people will follow you,'" Taylor said during Super Bowl week. "And I found that way to work for me."

His challenge is reminiscent of what Lewis faced when he arrived in 2003. He'll be counted upon to win games, but also to win back fans turned off by the owner's aversion to change.

Brown was loyal to Lewis and stuck with him despite an 0-7 mark in the playoffs.

Crowds at Paul Brown Stadium have shrunk each of the last three years, with the Bengals finishing next-to-last in the NFL attendance last season. By bringing in an outsider as head coach, the Bengals hope to send a message that things are changing.



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Tom Brady rides a duck boat during the Patriots' parade through Boston on Tuesday.

# We want 7: Fans fete Patriots

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

BOSTON — Hundreds of thousands of jubilant fans jammed downtown Boston on Tuesday for a parade celebrating the New England Patriots' sixth Super Bowl title, clamoring for more with cheers of "We want seven!" and "Next year, right here!"

A party atmosphere enveloped the city as fans clad in team garb packed sidewalks in the mild weather and stood on tiptoe for a glimpse of quarterback Tom Brady, coach Bill Belichick and the rest of the team. Red, white and blue confetti rained down.

It's a familiar feeling in Boston. The parade came just four months after the city feted the Red Sox for their fourth World Series championship in 15 years.

"Getting to see Tom Brady again is always a special day, but the Patriots are amazing. Six-time champs," fan Lauren Mills said, adding that she still hasn't had her fill. Her message to Brady: "Go for No. 7. He still has how many fingers left? You know, four more rings to go."

Fresh from Sunday's 13-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl in Atlanta, team members and their families took a 2-mile swing through the city aboard Boston's iconic World War II-era amphibious "duck boats."

Brady held his pigtailed daughter, Vivian, and they waved and grinned at the crowd as players and team owner Robert Kraft took turns holding aloft the Lombardi Trophy. Belichick and his partner, Linda Holliday, beamed, and the storied coach doffed his cap.

Star tight end Rob Gronkowski, who has talked about retiring after this latest NFL title, whooped it up with his brothers and several other players removed their shirts and spent the second half of the parade cavorting bare-chested.

They waved large signs that read, "We Got Everything" — a twist on the Patriots' motivational hashtag, "Everything We Got," that had become a theme this season.

# SUPER BOWL

## Commentary

# Defenders get no love from voters

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
Associated Press

In a Super Bowl snoozer featuring a single touchdown by victorious New England and the high-scoring, newfangled, all-the-rage Los Angeles Rams managing a measly three points, the MVP trophy went to Patriots receiver Julian Edelman.

Where's the love for the defense? Sure, Edelman caught 10 passes for 141 yards, including two grabs on the drive that

**If there ever was a case for another defensive MVP like Von Miller in Super Bowl 50, this was it.**

ended with rookie running back Sony Michel plowing into the end zone with the game's lone touchdown.

Yet, if there ever was a case for another defensive MVP like Von Miller in Super Bowl 50, this was it.

Of 54 MVPs (Cowboys DT Randy White and DE Harvey Martin shared the honor in 1978), 42 have been of

fensive players, 11 were defenders and one was a special teamer (Desmond Howard in 1997).

There were plenty of worthy candidates from the Patriots defense that hit Goff 16 times, collected four sacks, broke up eight passes and picked off another.

Two defenders really stood out:

■ Jason McCourty raced across the field to break up a would-be touchdown toss to Brandon Cooks, who was wide open — but had ... to ... wait ... forever ... for Jared Goff's rainbow pass that was knocked away just as it arrived.

■ Stephon Gilmore intercepted Goff's pass in front of his end zone with 4:17 remaining on a pass intended for Cooks to seal the sixth title for Tom Brady, who outplayed Goff, and Bill Belichick, who outsmarted Sean McVay.

Calais Campbell, for one, insists Gilmore was the real MVP of SB53 after forcing a fumble, intercepting a pass, breaking up three other throws and collecting five tackles.

"The offense only scores 13 points and they give MVP to Edelman but the D only gives up 3 points and Gilmore" does all of that, Campbell complained on social media. "Smh no respect for the masterpiece on defense."

The Rams may have very well represent the future with their 33-year-old coach and 24-year-old quarterback, but the 66-year-old coach and his 41-year-old QB still reign supreme in 2019 — thanks again to a defense that allowed the duty to survive another masterful game plan by Rams defensive coordinator Wade Phillips.

Brady's worst Super Bowl — three scores in 11 drives that didn't end in kneel-downs — also was his easiest — a 10-point margin of victory was his highest ever.

McVay and Goff both accepted the blame for a miserable showing in which the Rams never adjusted to New England's zone defense and aggressive D-line and managed to score just once in a dozen drives, the first eight of which ended in punts.

When it was over, the high-flying Rams, who led the NFC in scoring with a 33-point average, had nine punts, an interception, a field goal and a missed field goal to show for all that firepower.



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Quarterback Jared Goff, right, and the Rams' high-powered offense were completely neutralized by the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

# Looking to the future

## Rams' McVay determined to learn from humbling loss

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Sean McVay has had very few bad days during his two seasons in charge of the Los Angeles Rams. His coaching tenure had been a rocket ride all the way to the Super Bowl.

Until Bill Belichick sent this bright football mind and his exciting team plummeting back to Earth.

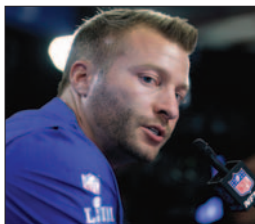
What McVay does about it will determine whether the Rams are still an ascending powerhouse or another NFL contender broken by the New England Patriots.

After Belichick's defense turned McVay's offense into the worst version anyone had ever seen, the Rams' 33-year-old offensive guru was visibly frustrated and embarrassed. His clenched jaw in postgame interviews also signified a determination to never let it happen again.

"The thing that is so tough about all of this is the finality to it," McVay said Sunday night after his Rams failed to score a touchdown for only the second time in his 36 games in charge. "Usually, if you go through some adversity, you get a chance to bounce back right away. This one is going to stick with you. It just stings in your gut. I'm still kind of numb right now, but I have so much love for these players and these coaches. That's where it really eats at you, because you feel like you didn't do your part to help them achieve success.

"This is going to be a very humbling, tough one that you learn from. But you have to demonstrate that mental toughness you talk about, and that is all I know how to do."

McVay could have been speaking partly to convince himself after he coached only



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Rams head coach Sean McVay, 33, said the finality of the game left him "numb."

the second time in 53 Super Bowls to fail to score a touchdown. The wunderkind's confidence appeared to be shaken to its core by a New England defense that held the 11th highest-scoring team in NFL history to 260 total yards, six first downs in the first three quarters and their fewest points in McVay's era.

"It's embarrassing," left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "It stings to play that way. You'd almost rather score a ton and lose that way, but that would take away from what the defense did. They gave us every opportunity to win."

McVay thrives on X's and O's, and he will have six months to scheme new ways to attack the similar zone defenses used late in the year by Detroit, Chicago and New England to throttle the Rams' passing game. He also will endeavor to teach Jared Goff to make better decisions under pressure after the young quarterback's stinker of a Super Bowl.

General manager Les Snead has big calls to make on soon-to-be free agents and roster vacancies. The Rams will return with a wealth of talent, but they must determine whether their 4-3 record in their final seven games was a sign of bigger flaws.

Financially speaking, the Rams' championship window remains wide open for at least one more season before Goff likely gets a significant raise and consumes a larger chunk of their cap space in 2020. They can deal with their disappointment by adding players, not culling them — and after the bold moves of the last offseason, there is no reason to suspect the Rams won't go all-in again in 2019.

Although the Rams are hurting, a franchise with 13 consecutive non-winning seasons before McVay arrived is not likely to panic over one Super Bowl setback, particularly since much of its core — running back Todd Gurley, two-time Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald and 1,200-yard receivers Brandon Cooks and Robert Woods — is locked into place with long-term deals.

"The first thing (Super Bowl MVP) Julian Edelman said to me when I congratulated him after the game was, 'You guys are going to be really good for a long time,'" Whitworth said.

Los Angeles' unrestricted free agents include defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, safety Lamarcaus Joyner, edge rusher Dante Fowler and left guard Rodger Saffold.

Although Suh loves living in LA and got his first career playoff victory this season, he likely could make more money elsewhere. The Rams must think about using the franchise tag on Fowler, who clearly would like to stay.

"We'll be ready next year," Fowler said after the Super Bowl.



## SPORTS



Staying or going?

Gasol, Conley await trade deadline decisions » **NBA, Page 29**

## SKIING



PONTUS LUNDAHL, TT/AP

Lindsey Vonn is assisted after crashing Tuesday during the women's super-G at the World Championships in Are, Sweden. Vonn is retiring after the downhill on Sunday.

## ‘I’m too old for this’

Vonn crashes out in penultimate race before retiring; Shiffrin wins super-G gold

By ANDREW DAMPF  
Associated Press

ARE, Sweden — One of the hallmarks of Lindsey Vonn's career has been the way she bounces back from major crashes time and time again.

So perhaps it's fitting that the most successful female skier of all time will enter her last race before retiring following yet another tumble into the safety netting.

Vonn straddled a gate mid-air during the super-G at the world championships Tuesday and ended up sliding down the hill face first.

"I've got a bit of a shiner. I feel like I've been hit by an 18-wheeler, but other than that I'm great," Vonn said with a laugh. "My knees are the same as they were before the race. I think my neck's going to be sore. I got the wind knocked out of me, my ribs are oddly sore. It'll be fine. Sunday

will be great."

Vonn quickly got up after the fall and skied down the hill under her own power after being tended to by medical personnel. Then she sat and happily answered reporters' questions during a news conference.

The 34-year-old Vonn, the all-time leader in women's World Cup wins, announced last week that she will retire after racing the super-G and downhill at the worlds — meaning that Sunday's downhill is her

final race.

"Don't count me out," Vonn said. "I've got one more chance. Maybe I'll pull off a miracle, maybe I won't. ... I'm going to try my hardest. Just because I get knocked down, it doesn't mean I don't get back up."

Vonn's long history of crashes has included frightful falls at the 2006 Turin Olympics and 2013 worlds. Her legs are so battered that she will have knee surgery

**SEE OLD ON PAGE 27**

Dolphins hire Flores; Bengals get Taylor » **NFL, Page 30**